

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TUESDAY

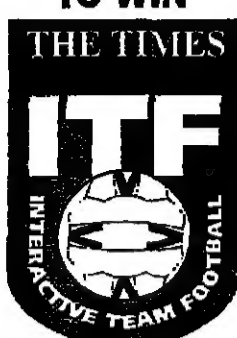
WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

PLAY TO WIN



Check how your players are performing in our cash-prize Interactive Team Football game

PLUS:

Libby Purves and Anatole Kaletsky, Commentator of the Year

FASHION

Slip into something sexier... Jasper Conran raises the temperature

PLUS:

Interface, our weekly guide to computers

FILMS

Ralph Fiennes in the futuristic thriller-chiller *Strange Days*

PLUS:

Health and the Books page



THE 100 MOST POWERFUL WOMEN IN THE WORLD

In the Magazine
PLUS: Weekend, Car 96, 1015 for young Times readers and Vision the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: YOUR CHANCE TO WIN TWO TICKETS TO THE CRICKET WORLD CUP FINAL

Fears that IRA will strike without warning undermine hopes of renewed ceasefire

Hit-list of RAF stations found at bomber's home

By Stewart Tandler and Mike Evans

A HIT-LIST of top RAF stations was found in the south London hideout of the Aldwych bus bomber, police sources revealed yesterday, as Scotland Yard said that the IRA could strike at any time without warning.

Ed O'Brien's bedsit in Lewisham also included enough Semtex explosive to make up to ten bombs similar to the device which exploded on the bus. The target list, handwritten on a single sheet of paper, included other military installations. Police also found an extensive collection of timers, fuses and detonators hidden in the room or buried in the garden.

The RAF bases may have been chosen because the IRA

considers them a weak point where security would be easier to breach. The RAF has had few connections with Northern Ireland, apart from providing guards for Aldergrove airport in Belfast. The extent of the equipment suggests the IRA has made plans for a ruthless and sustained campaign. One officer said: "The feeling is the IRA is here to do something and to do something in a big way."

Both MI5 and the police fear that the IRA is prepared to launch bomb attacks without warning, although not necessarily against civilian targets. One security source said: "If the IRA employs logic they might view it as counter-productive to attack civilian

areas without warning. Certainly they wouldn't want to risk killing American tourists because of the impact that would have on public opinion in the United States."

During the 17-month ceasefire, Sinn Féin mounted an urgent fundraising campaign in the United States and raised £800 million. Although President Clinton is considering banning fundraising activities, MI5 believes the IRA would do nothing to risk damaging the potential for fundraising in the US.

Two American civilians were injured in the Docklands bombing, two weeks ago although they were not badly hurt. MI5 believes the IRA hardliners who forced the



O'Brien: list of targets was found at his bedsit

ending of the ceasefire have resolved to hit Establishment targets, including military bases, as a priority, following the "initial, spectacular" bombing at South Quay. Over

the weekend, Commander John Grieve, head of the Anti-Terrorist Branch, said that another IRA attack could be imminent.

As the police warnings were issued, hundreds of extra officers moved into the centre of London to protect vulnerable buildings and streets. Assessments suggest the West End and centre of government and commerce will be the principal targets for a vicious campaign.

The security forces are understood to be preparing for a campaign lasting at least a year. The bleakest analysis suggests "there will be no political movement until the IRA sees a new political landscape emerging in London, Dublin and Washington after elections. In the past 17

months the IRA has moved fresh active service units into place for a campaign with new rules. The list of possible targets includes the Royal Family, senior politicians, the City, areas such as Docklands and landmarks of London.

One police source said these would include "any landmark you can recognise as London from a postcard".

Active service units could strike beyond London but the capital will remain the focus for attack. Terrorist intelligence officers believe the IRA would be happy to attack the Royal Family and the only restraint is the fear of loyalist reprisals.

VIPs could face attacks from car bombs like the device which killed Ian Gow, the Conservative MP and confidant of Margaret Thatcher, in 1990. The IRA may also have infiltrated gunmen on to the mainland to carry out assassinations at close quarters, like the shooting of the Governor of Gibraltar at his home in Lichfield, also in 1990.

Large bomb attacks without warning would be a new departure for the IRA and there was concern last week that there was no announcement of the bus bomb. In fact, the IRA swiftly confirmed it was an accident. Assassinations using bombs have been carried out without warning but coded messages have always been given about other devices. They are often inaccurate.

Police are still trying to piece together the background of O'Brien, 21, and are surprised

that he kept so much material at his home. IRA gangs usually keep their caches away from their homes. Detectives think O'Brien was either naive or highly confident. He had no criminal record and had never been linked to terrorism.

"He seems to have been the complete sleeper in the classic John Le Carré mode," one officer said. Other members of the active service unit either lived near by or kept in contact.

□ Sinn Féin's fundraising organisation in the United States is to sue the *Financial Times* for libel over an editorial. The Friends of Sinn Féin claim that the FT conspired with the British Government falsely to accuse the Friends of Sinn Féin of funding the IRA's bombing campaign.

Sinn Féin seeks 'copper-fastened' guarantee of talks

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

SINN FEIN will today use its first meeting with the Government since the collapse of the IRA ceasefire to warn ministers that they can save the peace process only by setting a firm date for all-party talks.

Martin McGuinness, who will meet senior officials from the Northern Ireland Office at Stormont, insisted yesterday that Britain must give "copper-fastened" assurances that it would convene round-table talks.

As Unionists condemned the Government for agreeing to meet Sinn Féin, Mr McGuinness said he would use the meeting to examine ways of rebuilding the peace process.

The leading Sinn Féin member said: "Any new process must contain copper-fastened and unambiguous public assurances that all-party talks will be initiated by both governments at the earliest possible date. Negotiations need to proceed with urgency and within an agreed time frame."

The Government, which cut off ministerial contact with Sinn Féin after the Docklands bomb, insisted that it would maintain contact with the party at official level. Ministers

said it would be foolish to close doors on Sinn Féin if there was a way of salvaging the peace process.

Unionists, however, said the meeting showed that the IRA was using bombs as a negotiating tactic. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist defence spokesman, said: "The Government says it wants to keep channels of communication open. But in reality they are talking with terrorists. The IRA is saying: 'Do things our way or we will continue our violence.'"

The MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone was particularly angered that Mr McGuinness, who was once convicted of IRA membership, will be joined at the talks by Gerry Kelly, a convicted IRA bomber. Mr Kelly, 41, is regarded as one of the key republican strategists.

Sinn Féin's insistence that the Government must set a date for all-party talks has proved a sticking point in negotiations between British and Irish officials, who are trying to agree a communiqué for an Anglo-Irish summit this week. Dublin hopes that the IRA will restore its ceasefire and that Sinn Féin will agree to participate in



Martin McGuinness in Londonderry yesterday

elections in Northern Ireland if Britain agrees to a "specific date" for such talks. Britain says that while it is keen to see all-party talks it must create conditions to give Unionists the confidence to join such a process.

Despite the Anglo-Irish differences, there were signs of progress yesterday when John Hume, leader of the SDLP, agreed for the first time to take part in elections for a seat to all-party talks. However, the MP for Foyle said the elections would have to be on a "party list" basis in which voters would register their support for a political party rather than for individual candidates.

It is understood that Mr Hume threw his weight behind the "party list" election proposal in talks last week with the Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionists. The election, in which Northern Ireland would be treated as one constituency, would benefit both parties to the detriment of the Ulster Unionists.

David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists who is adamantly opposed to the party list system, insisted yesterday that elections should be held to a 90-member body.

Photograph, page 22

Thousands join protests for peace

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

MORE than 100,000 people in Northern Ireland and the Republic, Protestants and Roman Catholics, stood together at peace rallies yesterday to demonstrate their determination to maintain the peace process.

A crowd of 20,000 gathered outside Belfast City Hall to demand an end to IRA violence. Forty thousand people marched in Dublin and 25,000 turned out in Cork. Thousands of others wearing white ribbons for peace turned out at rallies in towns and villages across the Province and the Republic.

Parents with children joined pensioners in Belfast to observe ten minutes' silence at the spot where President Clinton switched on the Christmas lights nearly three months ago. As church bells rang out at 3pm, hundreds of people held

up white paper doves. The silence was broken after five minutes when a section of the crowd began to chant "Ceasefire now, give us back our peace", and the rest of the crowd joined in.

The only sour note came when Sinn Féin supporters, holding banners calling for negotiations, refused to observe the silence. Party supporters smirked at the crowd when they began to sing the John Lennon song *Give Peace a Chance*.

Rosina Watson, who came to the rally with friends from the nationalist Andersonstown area of Belfast, said she had been moved to tears. "This is the people saying we don't want another 25 years of violence."

Eileen Bell, of Women Together for Peace, co-organisers of the Belfast rally, said: "It was the most significant rally we have held since the collapse of the ceasefire. We did not have speeches because we wanted a people's rally. And

the people certainly took it over." The rallies south of the border were organised by Stop '96, a new group that is calling on the IRA to restore its ceasefire. President Robinson lit a candle for peace before joining a rally in Co Kerry.

John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, led the calls for peace in the Republic. Speaking at a rally in his constituency of Dumbarton, Co Meath, he said: "The army council of the IRA has no right to act on our behalf. The people of Ireland are saying to them: stop, stop, stop."

The parents of Ed O'Brien, who blew himself up in the London bus blast, joined more than 2,000 people at an ecumenical service and 30-minute vigil in the grounds of a church in their hometown of Gorey, Co Wexford. In London, MPs from the main parties joined a crowd of about a peace vigil.

Photograph, page 22

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Rock star's death may hold clue to trio's suicide pact

By Russell Jenkins and Tom Rhodes

THE three young Britons who killed themselves in a suicide pact in America, habitually wore black in an apparent homage to their dead hero, Ian Curtis, singer with the pop band Joy Division.

Curtis, a depressive, hanged himself 16 years ago when he was 23, ensuring that a macabre cult grew up around the Manchester post-punk rock group, which later changed its name to New Order. His records were among possessions abandoned last summer by Ruth Fleming, Stephen Bateman, both 22, and Jane Greenhow, 23, in their student digs in Leicester.

Students said the trio appeared to live in a "haunted" and "dark" world of their own. They were unapproachable, self-obsessed and prone to casual violence.

Carol Broughton, 23, who moved into their flat, said they walked around "like they were on a mission". She discovered they were interested in environmental issues and left behind videos of current affairs programmes.

She said they all wore dark clothing, which she believed was connected with music they liked, including Joy Division. "When I heard they had died I was shocked, but I wasn't really surprised. It was the sort of thing I could



Curtis, singer hanged himself 16 years ago

imagine them saying on the spur of the moment, 'Let's shoot each other'."

Miss Broughton said: "They were just strange. I got the impression it was part of an act but they seemed to look down on everyone. You felt you weren't good enough to speak to them. The few times I tried to speak to Jane I just got sarcasm."

"They had a lot of hatred in them. That was obvious because they hated everyone and everything. They wouldn't make eye contact and if you walked into a room, they would walk straight out."

Mr Bateman and Miss Fleming shot themselves at a firing range in Mesa, Arizona, and 24 hours later Miss Greenhow's body was found at a campsite in Shasta County, California, a thousand

miles away. Police found a suicide note but officials in Mesa have refused to disclose its contents. Investigators are looking into possible links with an extreme rightwing group.

All three had lived together in Andover, Hampshire, before travelling to America. They were nicknamed "the Addams family" by neighbours because of their behaviour. Mr Bateman often dressed in a black military-type uniform and the women sported multi-coloured hairstyles and bizarre make-up.

Detective Ron Shock, of the Mesa homicide department, said although there was no concrete proof, he was aware of reports that the trio had some connection with an extreme rightwing organisation.

Police are studying items found in a Salvation Army hotel in central London where the three had stayed. A checklist was discovered along with pages from gun magazines and extreme rightwing literature. The checklist said: "Check the guns, get rid of the car, clean the house, dye hair."

Miss Greenhow's mother, Blanche, 51, said she had arrived home in Harrogate to discover a message from her daughter on her answering machine. When she returned the call staff at the hotel said her daughter had checked out. Hours later she was found shot dead in a rented car.



Derek McCulloch with a musical score from the 1790s in Austen's handwriting. Collecting music then was like collecting CDs today, he says

Jane Austen, the original Britpop fan

By David Charter, Education Correspondent

A TREASURE trove of musical scores by Jane Austen's favourite composers and songwriters, many painstakingly written in her own hand, has been found at the author's family home in Alton, Hampshire. Academics from Surrey University analysing the eight volumes say they throw new light on the tastes and lifestyle of the author whose *Sense and Sensibility*, published in 1811, is drawing vast cinema audiences today.

Dr Derek McCulloch, who is preparing a catalogue of the work with co-author Ian Gammie, said: "She was definitely a fan of popular music. We

found huge amounts of music from theatre shows of the 18th century and songs like *I'm Jolly Dick the Lamplighter* and *The Tippling Philosophers*." Austen's favourite songwriters emerge as Charles Dibdin, responsible for *Jolly Dick*, and James Hook, probably best known for *Goosey Goosey Gander*.

Other ditties by Dibdin in Austen's Top Ten include *When Cupid First His Trade Began*. Hook also contributed *Ma Chère Amie*. Dibdin (1745-1814) came from Southampton and was the most influential songwriter of his generation. Hook (1746-1822), from Norwich, wrote

more than 2,000 songs. There are many pieces from France and Italy, some of which were published only in Dublin and are likely to have been sent to Austen by her admirer Thomas Lefroy. He became Lord Chief Justice of Ireland after the break-up of their romance, which may have foundered because of family opposition.

Dr McCulloch added: "The acquisition of music then was like the acquisition of CDs now. Jane Austen wrote the manuscripts with an immaculate hand. She obviously knew her music to copy it out so well."



Austen: music lover

Broadmoor blackout on Ripper attack

By a Staff Reporter

AN attempt to kill Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper, in his room at Broadmoor has not been reported to the police by hospital authorities, it emerged last night.

The move is part of an apparent news blackout at the top-security hospital after Friday night's attack, in which a fellow inmate, a convicted thief, allegedly almost garrotted Sutcliffe with the flex from a pair of stereo headphones after knocking on the door of his private room in Henley ward. Sutcliffe, convicted of the murders of 13 women, screamed for help and was saved by two other murderers, Kenneth Erskine, the Stockwell Strangler, and Jamie Devitt, who raised the alarm and ran to help him.

The alleged attacker had been diagnosed as being mentally ill but told staff he resented being locked up with sex offenders. It has emerged that Broadmoor did not call in the police and all staff have been told not to talk about the incident. Alan Franey, Broadmoor's general manager, said: "I cannot and will not comment on any incident which involves one of my patients."

A spokesman for Thames Valley Police at Brixton said: "We are surprised we were not asked to investigate but Broadmoor appears to be a law unto itself." A member of the hospital staff said: "It is shocking that an attempted murder can happen in a hospital and the police are not called in to investigate."

Friends rally to keep Hobday as a voice of Today

By Michael Horsnell

A CAMPAIGN is being waged by Peter Hobday's friends to prevent him from being squeezed out as a presenter on Radio 4's *Today*.

Sources within the BBC say the avuncular style and Home Counties accent of the 59-year-old broadcaster do not please Roger Mosey, editor of *Today*, who wants a younger audience and more women listeners. Mr Mosey apparently also wants more regional voices on the news and current affairs programme.

Amid reports of friction between the two men — as well as an appeal by Jocelyn Hay, chairman of the Radio 4 pressure group Voice of the Listener, for Mr Hobday's retention — there were official denials that he was being squeezed out. But sources close to the programme insisted that Mr Hobday, a presenter since 1984, is a victim of ageism and of his gentlemanly middle-class image.

Hobday, 59, who is by chance fronting this morning's edition, said last night: "I am not supposed to discuss the internal affairs of the BBC. But as a matter of fact I can't deny that when I am asked the direct question, 'Have you been offered a new contract', the answer is No. Also when I am asked, 'Have you been working fewer days with the programme?' the answer is Yes."

"My contract expires at the end of March and it is getting late in the day to be offered another one. There is talk about some other kind of



Hobday: confirms he is working less

arrangement. But I don't know what that might be or how it would work out."

Mr Mosey denied that Mr Hobday was being squeezed out but said that the successful trio of presenters, John Humphrys, Sue MacGregor and James Naughtie, left few opportunities for others.

He told *The Times*: "Inevitably, with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor doing a few more slots each, there are going to be fewer available for those who aren't the three main presenters. It's not an ageism thing or a rich Bromley accent thing either. We do want to use Peter Hobday in various roles in the year ahead."

Friends of the broadcaster point out, however, that Mr Hobday has already had the number of programmes he fronts more than halved in the past two years.

Steve Wright, 41, the former Radio 1 DJ, is to return to the BBC with two weekend shows on Radio 2.

Discredited Vinland map may be genuine after all

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE Vinland map, long dismissed as a clever forgery designed to prove Columbus was not the first European in North America, may be genuine after all.

Hailed in 1965 as the most exciting cartographic discovery of the century, the map was discredited ten years later by scientific studies that showed the ink contained a pigment with titanium in it not available before the 20th century. It could not, therefore, date from 1440 as its supporters claimed.

In the 1980s, physicists in California passed a proton beam through the map, generating X-rays which showed only tiny quantities of titanium. Dr Thomas Cahill of the University of California at Davis, the physicist responsible, said the claim that the map must



Part of the map, from Europe to America

be a forgery should be re-evaluated.

Earlier this month at a symposium at Yale Dr Cahill added further evidence. Analysis of known volumes of the same period, including a Gutenberg Bible, had shown titanium occurring naturally at greater levels than in the map.

Dr Cahill said: "There is nothing about the chemistry or morphology of the Vinland map that in any way

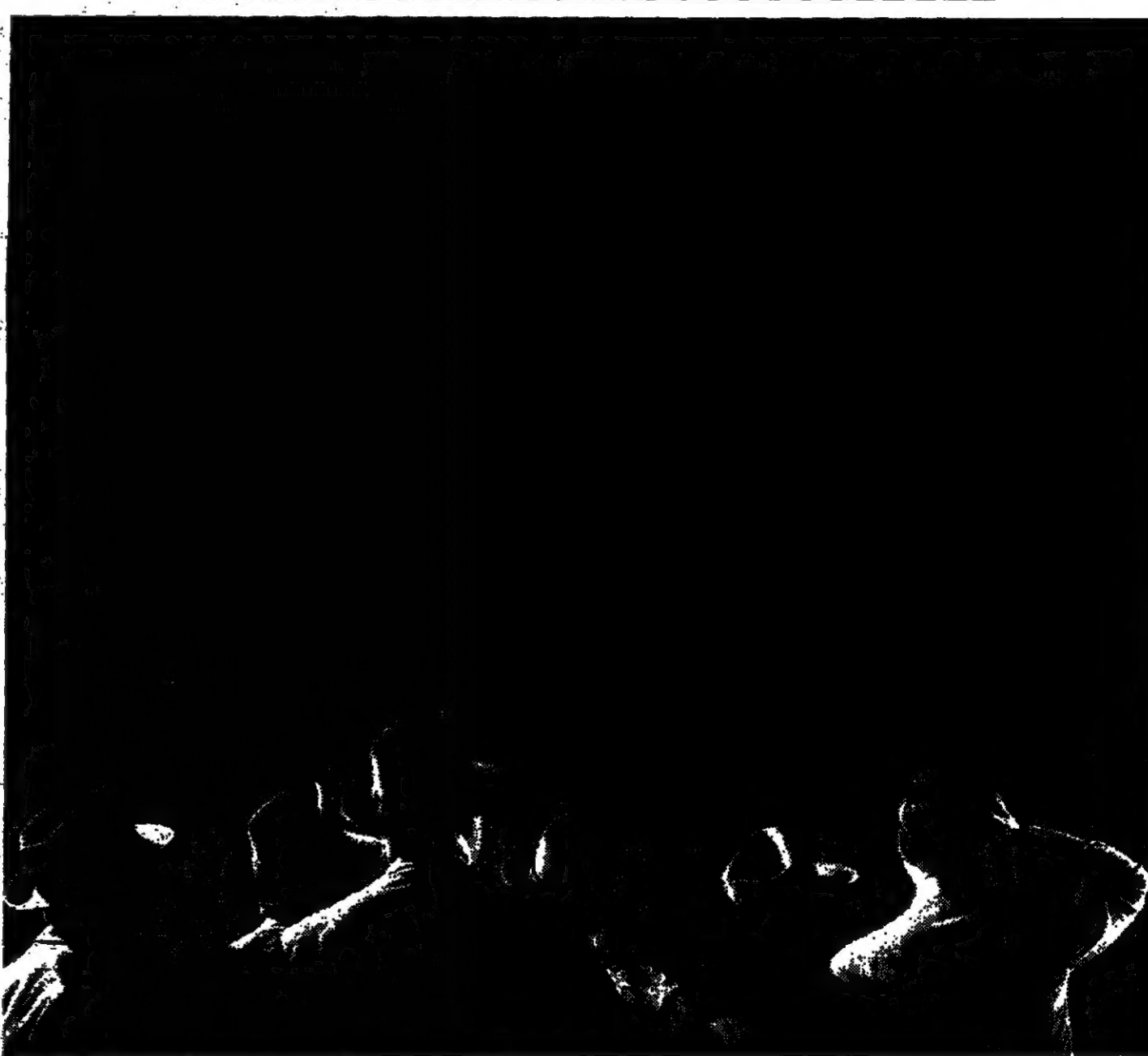
makes it stand out from any of the parchments from that period we have analysed."

Now Yale University, which owns the map and keeps it locked in a vault, is to republish an expanded edition of the book which created the 1965 sensation, *The Vinland Map and the Tartar Relation*.

In a new introduction, George Painter, a scholar retired from his post as assistant keeper of printed books at the British Museum, says that rejection of the Vinland map has been a miscarriage of justice.

The key point was that the map contained an island, labelled Vinland Insula, with a coastline similar to that of Newfoundland. Since it antedated Columbus by 50 years, it was strong evidence that Norse explorers had visited the region and provided the information from which the map had later been drawn.

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By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

Mr Gibbs fears the rent

Albany has always been associated with men of letters, and past tenants include Byron, J.B. Priestley, Malcolm Muggeridge, Graham Greene

11pm or to house a cat or dog
or a child under 13.

The Georgian façade of Albany House, which was once used as a convenient London base by such as Lord Byron and Graham Greene. Residents today include Alan Clark, third from left, and Christopher Gibbs, right.

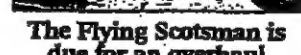
By ALAN HAMILTON

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BY JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

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Women cancer over ma

Women at risk of cancer agonise over mastectomy

TWO women at high risk of developing breast cancer decided to have their healthy breasts removed before there was any sign of the disease.

Wendy Watson, 44, and Vanessa Smith, 44, are members of an extended family that carries the breast cancer gene BrCa1. They faced the distressing decision after learning that ten of their female relatives over four generations had died of breast cancer.

A third member of the family, in her early 20s, who decided to put off a mastectomy until later, said she needed to plan having children and "finding a husband, perhaps".

About 1,300 breast cancer cases a year, 5 per cent of the total, are inherited. Those carrying the BrCa1 gene have an 85 per cent chance of developing breast cancer.

Mrs Watson, from Bakersfield, Derbyshire, whose mother and grandmother died of breast cancer, became one of the first women in Britain to opt for a precautionary double

Four members of a family that carries the breast cancer gene BrCa1 have described their dilemma. Jeremy Laurance reports

mastectomy in 1993 after tracing her family history and discovering many other relatives had been affected by the disease. "It got so eventually I was constantly worrying about it. It kept nagging me night and day. Then one night I thought if I had a mastectomy before I got a problem that would solve it."

"Once I thought that, no one could have shaken me because my overriding worry was of dying of cancer. I went into hospital, had the operation, woke up and thought: 'Thank goodness for that, it's done. I'm the gamble off. I felt absolutely fine.'"

Mrs Watson, who has two children, had her mastectomy before a blood test for the gene became available in September 1994. She describes how

she made her choice in a Channel 4 film *The Decision*, to be shown at 9pm tomorrow.

Mrs Smith, her cousin, resisted the idea of a mastectomy but changed her mind when she learnt that she carried the gene. She decided on a cosmetic mastectomy, leaving enough tissue to allow her breasts to be reconstructed with an implant.

"There isn't a cure and there might never be one. I couldn't live with the waiting... the thought of being worried for the next 30 years. I'm not particularly well-endowed - I might end up with a better pair," Mrs Smith, from Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, said.

Helen Cauldwell is the youngest family member to have had the gene test, which

confirmed she is also a carrier. Before taking it she said: "Even though I am only 21 now and breast cancer in our family kicks in at about 30, it would be nice to know so I can plan children and getting married. If I do have to have a mastectomy it is going to make a difference to my life

and finding a husband, perhaps. I would rather be alive with no boobs than in a coffin with boobs."

A fourth member of the family, Diane Lucking, 36, who is married with two children, was resigned to having a mastectomy. But when the test showed she did not

carry the gene, she broke down in tears. Later she said she felt guilty that she was free of the lethal gene that had afflicted so many of her relatives.

About 15 women in the United Kingdom are thought to have had preventive mastectomies and the number is

expected to increase. Mrs Watson said: "The main message I want to get across is that body image doesn't matter. A lot of people were horrified when they heard I was having the operation so I had to make it easier for them. I have turned it into a feature of myself."

Mrs Watson, who runs a shop and whose husband is a policeman, said she felt privileged to have had the test. "It could have been so many things you can't do anything about. But there is something you can do about breast cancer. I feel I have escaped."

Mind and Matter, page 14



Vanessa Smith, left, Diane Lucking, Helen Cauldwell and Wendy Watson, who have all taken the gene test, with varying results

Red Arrows must miss British air shows

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE Red Arrows have been ordered to take part in an Indonesian air show at the height of the coming summer season, forcing them to miss some of Britain's most popular air displays.

Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, has ruled that the RAF's aerobatic team should fly out in June on a three-week round trip to Jakarta, preventing them appearing at 17 planned air displays.

The Red Arrows, who lost their home base of Scampton, Lincolnshire, in defence cuts and are being temporarily housed at RAF Cranwell, are now privately sponsored by a number of British companies anxious to sell arms and equipment around the world.

Dr David Clark, the Shadow Defence Secretary, said: "The taxpayer, who funds the RAF in general, should be able to see the skill of the superb pilots of the Red Arrows. It is a matter of deep regret that they are being used in this fashion and is another example of how, when sponsorship is introduced, he who pays the piper calls the tune."

Lisa Leeson seeks cheap flights in airline job

By OUR AIR
CORRESPONDENT

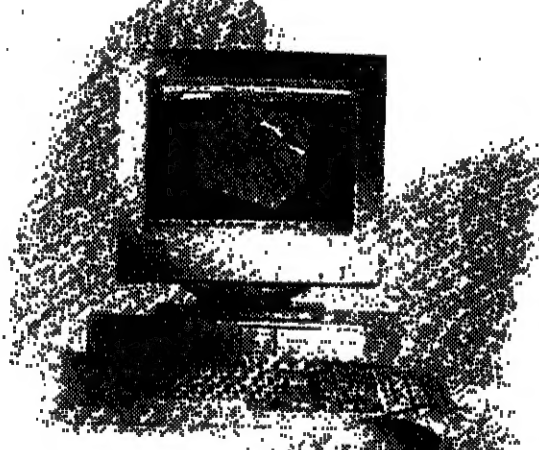
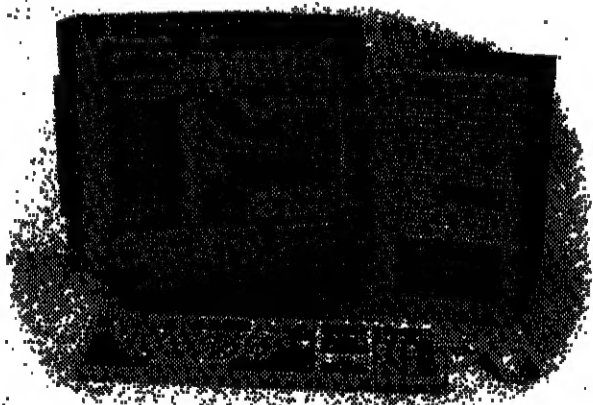
LISA LEESON will this week be interviewed for a job as a Virgin Atlantic air hostess, which she hopes will provide her with cheap flights to visit her husband Nick, who is serving a 6½ year jail term in Singapore for his role in the collapse of Barings bank.

Mrs Leeson is one of more than 1,000 hopefuls who will be interviewed on Wednesday for 400 cabin crew jobs in the rapidly expanding Virgin airline fleet. If successful, she will start on a basic salary of £8,500 plus expenses and overseas allowances.

Of far more interest to Mrs Leeson, 21, is the perk of paying only 10 per cent of the normal fare on Virgin Atlantic's service to Kuala Lumpur after six months' probation. An economy return to the Malaysian capital costs £623; if successful in her application, Mrs Leeson would have to pay only £62. After a year with Virgin, staff are entitled to 10 per cent trips with other airlines.

Mrs Leeson currently works as an assistant in a tea shop in Maidstone, Kent.

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MEDICAL BRIEFING

How soap star's vision dimmed

LOVERS of *Coronation Street* were dismayed to hear yesterday that Amanda Barrie has lost most of the sight in her left eye. Miss Barrie plays Alma, the café owner in the series.

The radio report of her sudden loss of vision did not equate with the usual diagnostic picture of somebody suffering from a central retinal vein occlusion. Characteristically it produces a gradual loss of sight, whereas it seemed this affliction was sudden.

Miss Barrie's account in a Sunday paper was more detailed and made better medical sense. Miss Barrie became aware of trouble last May when she began to notice deterioration in the vision of her left eye. Her right is unaffected.

Initially the loss seemed worrying and tiresome but not incapacitating, and her ophthalmologist made the

diagnosis of central retinal vein occlusion. In this condition the blood is unable to drain from the retina, the back of the eye becomes swollen and the vein so distended that there are many small retinal haemorrhages. The condition can be progressive or can improve, as it did for months in Miss Barrie's case. There was a relapse at Christmas when her vision deteriorated and it is now severely blurred.

There is every reason to hope that Miss Barrie's good eye will remain unaffected. However, if there is any predisposing condition which caused the occlusion in the left eye it might also influence the venous circulation in the right.

Central retinal venous occlusion usually attacks older people. It is rare in the young. Although in many cases there are no obvious predisposing factors present which can be treated, a high blood pressure has to be excluded. It is essential to make sure the person is not diabetic and any conditions which might lead to increased blood viscosity must be treated if present.

There is no treatment for the initial occlusion but some changes in the back of the eye which follow revascularisation may need attention.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD



Barrie: her vision deteriorated slowly

Flock-owning MP becomes surprise black sheep

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

UNTIL Quentin Davies announced yesterday that he would be rebelling against the Government on the crucial Scott vote, few people had ever heard of this anodyne backbench Tory MP.

Mr Davies makes an unlikely leader of the new Scott rebels. In the nine years since he became MP for Stamford and Spalding his greatest claim to fame was that he had been cruel to sheep. Five years ago he was fined £1,500 for allowing his flock to starve on his Lincolnshire estate and not preventing 36 newborn lambs from dying. Every time he tried to speak in the Commons, Labour MPs booed.

Since then Mr Davies, a multimillionaire, has kept a low profile. Colleagues say he is neither clubbable nor a thinker, although he gained a first at Cambridge. They are stunned that he has thrust himself into the limelight. "Let's hope he doesn't do a Thurnham and quit the party," said one.

Mr Davies is considered contrary in his views — he is inclined to the One Nation Tories on the left of the party but believes that criminals should be pelted with rotten fruit in the village stocks and flogged on television. Yesterday he said he had agonised before deciding to rebel. He called it "a sickening realisation which meant I could hardly eat my Sunday lunch" and said he was rebelling "only because the integrity of public life and the constitution is at risk".

Until now Mr Davies has pandered to the Whips' every whim. He is a member of the Treasury Select Committee as well as an officer of three Tory backbench committees. He is also a family man who attends church every week.

He has always toed the party line and has made it clear that he dislikes the former whipless rebels for embarrassing John Major over Europe. But like the former Tory MP Peter Thurnham, who quit the party last week, he has never been rewarded with ministerial office. Instead he has gained the dubious distinction of being Westminster's most widely travelled backbencher and picked up a host of lucrative consultancies.

Mr Davies, who made his money as a banker at Morgan Grenfell, has recently been on parliamentary trips to Italy, Germany, Estonia, Ethiopia, Turkey, Russia and Copenhagen. He said: "These are not a jaunt or beano. Other countries are confronting the same problems as us, and we would be barmy if we did not share their experience."

Unfortunately they are unlikely to have given him any tips about leading his new flock of renegades. The other Tory MPs who have threatened to vote against the Government or to abstain are mostly professional rebels who have less to lose. Only John Marshall, MP for Hendon South, has not voted against the Government before.



Davies: unlikely rebel

Former NFU chief to vote Labour

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

A PAST president of the National Farmers' Union has surprised the farming community by announcing that he will be voting Labour at the next general election.

Sir Simon Gourlay, who led the NFU from 1986 to 1991, says he has been alarmed by the Government's "lurch to the right" and finds himself more in tune with the philosophy of Tony Blair's party, including its pledge to introduce a statutory "right to roam" over uncultivated countryside.

Sir Simon said in an interview with *The Times* that he believed most of his fellow farmers would open their land to the public only if forced to do so by the law. "I think farmers are extremely conservative when it comes to granting the public access."

Sir Simon, 61, who grows 300 acres of cereals and keeps 185 suckler cows and 700 ewes in Powys, opened his farm to the public eight years ago. "I wrote to the local branch of the Ramblers' Association and said anyone was free to walk on my land, provided they kept off growing crops, respected gates and so on. I have had no problems. I think farmers in general greatly exaggerate the threat."

Sir Simon sympathised with the view that public access to farmland was "a reasonable quid pro quo" for the vast subsidy that farmers receive from taxpayers.

A statutory right to roam is anathema to the current leadership of the NFU and to the Country Landowners Association. Pressure from the two groups ensured that only one Tory was among the 144 MPs who voted for an Opposition backbencher's Bill providing

for a right to roam at its first reading last month. It has no chance of becoming law under this Government, but would form the basis for legislation if Labour was elected.

Sir David Naish, the NFU president, was surprised that Sir Simon had "chosen to wear his political heart on his sleeve" but said he was entitled to vote for any party he

liked. "It is completely unnecessary to have a statutory right to roam. Farmers are willing to allow the public on to their land but it must be managed access by voluntary agreement," Sir David said.

Sir Simon said his decision to vote Labour had been prompted mainly by what he saw as the growing power of "the Portillo-Howard axis, the

right-wing engine that is now driving the Tory party". He was also alarmed by the Scott report, into arms-to-Iraq. "I could no more have voted Labour under Michael Foot than flown over the moon," he said. "But new Labour has clearly taken on board much of what the Tories have done. I think they should now be given a chance to govern."

Many peers, who are normally the first to dissociate themselves from what they view as the "sleazier" lower House, also do not believe that Mr Major and his ministers have sacrificed the integrity of Parliament.

Lord Howe of Aberavon, who as Foreign Secretary supervised the department that authorised the guidelines, is likely to make a staunch defence of his colleague, William Waldegrave. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor, and two Law Lords will also defend the Government.

On the other side Lord Hailsham and Lord Callaghan of Cardiff will be attacking the way "Parliament has degenerated under the Tories" and calling for resignations. It will be one of the most formidable line-ups in the Lords for years. But Labour is unlikely to seek a vote as it knows that with the help of more than 300 hereditary peers who take the Tory whip, Mr Major would have an easy victory.

William Rees-Mogg, page 16
Leading article and Letters, page 77

Peter Riddell, page 16



Sir Simon Gourlay, the former farmers' leader who now backs Labour, at his farm in Knighton, Powys, at the weekend

Mandelson favours electoral reform

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

LABOUR'S leadership yesterday sent a fresh signal to Paddy Ashdown that it is ready to consider electoral reform as it tries to build a centre-left consensus.

Peter Mandelson, MP for Hartlepool and a close adviser to Tony Blair, made clear that Labour was hoping for Liberal Democrat backing for a long-term programme of government.

For the first time he hinted that if electoral reform took place under Labour, the most likely option could be

the Alternative Vote system under which people express first, second and third preferences in each constituency. If no candidate achieves 50 per cent, the preference votes are redistributed.

Mr Mandelson's words were welcomed by senior Liberal Democrats last night. He was being interviewed on BBC's *On the Record* about his new book, co-authored with Roger Liddle, which is thought likely to contain clues about Mr Blair's long-term thinking.

He said that Mr Blair and Mr Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat lead-

er, had shown they were not interested in pacts. "What we are talking about is principled co-operation to achieve the things that we think are important. What that means is that if we are elected, Labour would come in with a programme to be implemented over the long term, which I hope the Liberal Democrats will feel willing and able to support."

Mr Mandelson said that the problem with proportional representation was that it would produce a plethora of minority, often extreme, parties. If there were to be a move to a "fairer"

electoral system, he said, the Alternative Vote should be considered.

Mr Mandelson said: "We want a consensus across classes, across professions, right across the country. That means building a coalition of support for what we are doing which embraces both the Centre and the Left."

He added that if Labour won the next election, "no one is going to give us a honeymoon period for a split second. We have got to make sure that our programme is up and ready to go."

Peter Riddell, page 16

Thatcher defends Major over Scott

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

BARONESS THATCHER will today lead a drive in the House of Lords to defend the Government over the Scott report. She is planning a speech that will challenge one of Sir Richard Scott's main findings.

The former Prime Minister, in a rare show of solidarity with John Major, will say that Sir Richard is "plain wrong" to conclude in his report that ministers concealed a change in government guidelines on the export of defence-related equipment to Iraq.

In her first Lords speech for over a year, Lady Thatcher will argue that the guidelines never changed but only the way in which they were applied. However, she will make it "abundantly clear" that she thinks the inquiry should never have been held, according to aides.

Many peers, who are normally the first to dissociate themselves from what they view as the "sleazier" lower House, also do not believe that Mr Major and his ministers have sacrificed the integrity of Parliament.

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William Rees-Mogg, page 16
Leading article and Letters, page 77

Peter Riddell, page 16



In Peru

'From the very beginning I wanted to meet him. I felt he owed me an explanation'

'Mother confronts man who killed her daughter

By Stewart Tenders
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A WOMAN has shaken hands with her daughter's murderer in jail after campaigning for years to be allowed to meet him.

Lesley Moreland was determined to confront the man who killed Ruth in 1990 and to learn the full story of her death. The Home Office finally agreed. Now the 56-year-old charity worker wants other relatives of murder victims to be given the same access.

Mrs Moreland, from Potters Bar, Hertfordshire, hopes that telling her story will encourage other relatives of murder victims to realise meetings are possible. She believes meetings can help relatives to overcome grief and to rehabilitate the killers.

"The murderer can confront what he has done, reason why he has done it and fight against it happening again," she said. "Surely that is what the prison system is about." She agreed to describe her experiences only if her daughter's killer was not identified so that he could serve his sentence undisturbed.

Ruth, 22, was killed at the house she shared with friends in Enfield, north London. She was an employment training officer who had helped her attacker in the past. The jobless 23-year-old arrived at her house at 5am asking for



Ruth Moreland was stabbed to death in her house

help. Ruth let him in but asked him to leave when she realised he was high on LSD. He turned on her and stabbed her more than 100 times.

The man was arrested the next day. At the Old Bailey trial he admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility but was convicted of murder and sentenced to life with a recommendation that he should serve 13 years.

Mrs Moreland said: "From the very beginning I wanted to meet the man who killed my daughter. I wanted to understand why he would want to hurt her. Why would anyone

do that? Here was someone we had never heard of. I wanted to find out what kind of man he was. I felt he owed me an explanation."

Her husband, an accountant, wanted to forget the murder but he did not stop his wife trying to meet the killer. After taking advice from penal experts she used intermediaries such as prison chaplains and probation officers to approach the killer. Finally the gates opened for her at a Midlands jail two months ago.

Mrs Moreland said: "I was frightened. I was worried in case it stirred up a lot of very painful and difficult things.

When he came in I was struck by how large he was. I just thought Ruth never had a chance. The man looked like he was under some stress and breathing heavily and he said something like 'Can someone help me? I don't know what to say.' I later heard he thought I would attack him."

Mrs Moreland asked how he got to know Ruth and the killer started talking. "In various ways he expressed remorse and acknowledged he had caused a lot of suffering to people. The meeting was a genuine effort to give information. He did not do it cynically," Mrs Moreland said.

As they parted she shook his hand. "I wanted to acknowledge the fact he had displayed great courage. I think he made a great effort," said Mrs Moreland, who is a Quaker and an opponent of capital punishment. She wrote to him, thanking him again. She also told him she did not want any further contact.

She believes she succeeded because she did not challenge the prison system but used mediators. A direct approach, to a prisoner or his prison governor would only have been refused because the idea was so novel.

Mrs Moreland would like to see a more formal system set up. She said: "It will always be a minority that want to do it but that does not mean they should not be helped."



Lesley Moreland wants relatives of murder victims to be allowed to meet the killers

U2 captain blamed for death crash

An American U2 spyplane pilot was to blame for the crash in which he died at RAF Fairford, Gloucestershire, last summer, an investigation has concluded.

US Air Force investigators said that Captain David Hawkins, 35 — nicknamed Hawk — tried to wiggle the wings of his plane to shake off a small piece of take-off equipment which had not detached properly. The jet's height and speed were too low for the manoeuvre and its engines stalled, investigators said.

Royal hitch

An RAF aircraft taking the Duke of Edinburgh to a South African wildlife conference stopped overnight in Kenya with an electrical problem. He continued by Kenya Airways.

Fatal stabbing

A youth of 15 was arrested yesterday after a teenager was stabbed to death in Barnard Castle, Co Durham. Ian Gamble, 16, was found dead in the street late on Saturday.

Birth day berth

Amanda Felen was taken by lifeboat from Osea Island in the Blackwater estuary, Essex, yesterday after going into labour. She later gave birth to a healthy 9lb 2oz boy.

DNA hold-ups

Police forces all over the country are having to wait six months for DNA results from the National Database Centre in Birmingham because of a 60,000 backlog of samples.

Exotic arrivals

Sunderland, already home to a Slavonian grebe, has attracted the rarer laughing gull, far from its US east coast haunt. A cedar waxwing, from Canada, has been seen in Nottingham.

Lottery winners

Four ticketholders with the winning combination will each receive £2,237,965 from Saturday's National Lottery jackpot of £8.9 million.

Numbers, page 22

Jails watchdog to see Howard over role change



Sir Peter: might quit job

THE Home Secretary faces a crucial meeting this week amid reports that the Prisons Ombudsman is threatening to quit. Michael Howard will meet Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Woodhead on Wednesday to discuss the ombudsman's role after proposals to revise his powers.

Sir Peter's job is to investigate individual complaints from the country's jails. He reportedly objects to plans to stop him examining some ministerial decisions and to

restrict his access to government documents. He is said to be unhappy at the package of measures, which is understood to include preventing him looking at decisions taken by ministers over the 3,200 life-sentence prisoners and allowing civil servants to decide which official papers he can see during his investigations.

The Prison Service insisted yesterday that the review giving rise to the meeting was simply an attempt to

clarify Sir Peter's role to bring it closer to its original remit. A spokesman said: "The original remit of the ombudsman was to investigate complaints by prisoners about the Prison Service as an agency, not the decisions of individual ministers. The ombudsman's remit is kept under review and the revisions that have been proposed are merely to clarify what had been set out from the very beginning."

Sir Peter could not be contacted

for comment but the Prison Service spokesman added: "I am sure he will make his position clear when he meets Mr Howard this week."

According to the Independent on Sunday, Sir Peter is reported to have told Prison Service officials that the proposals would make his job "a joke". His resignation, or even open friction between him and Mr Howard, would be another blow to the Prison Service, which is still recovering from Mr Howard's

dismissal of Derek Lewis, the Director-General, last October. A replacement has not yet been found.

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said the ombudsman, who was appointed after Lord Woolf's inquiry into the 1990 Strangeways riot, had got off to a good start. "If this package of measures goes through, it will severely curtail the ombudsman's terms of reference," he said.

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Some cotton, some pickin'

Cotton has a long history in Peru. In fact, Peruvian farmers were growing it before Peru had a history.

But the cotton in this shirt is a pima cotton — a variety that began its career in the southwestern United States. Its long staples, or fibres, produce a finer, silkier yarn.

Now, when Peruvian farmers took home a few seeds and planted them, something miraculous happened.

Maybe it was the hot, dry climate, maybe the rich soil. But something in the Piura Valley made the pima staples grow even longer and silkier. (Local farmers said it was "soft as an angel's hair.")

It would be sinful to pick such cotton by machine. A machine can't tell which cotton bolls are ripe; it plucks everything, ready or not.

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Then they spin it, and knit it into a 40 singles, 6.1 oz. fabric: almost a full ounce richer than our original Interlochen.

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First, they place the fabric on long tables; and if it's striped, they carefully pin it down before cutting. (Some shirt makers skip this: it shows later in ill-matched goods.)

Then, in workrooms surprisingly modern for this neck of the woods, our Peruvian friends patiently stitch.

They double-needle the seams, to lie flatter and look dressier.

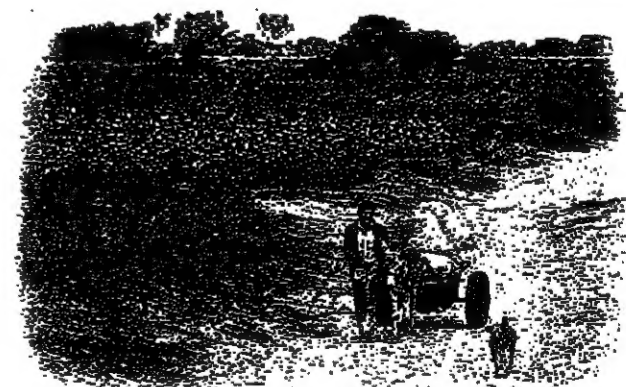
They add a tree-top vent at the bottom, where the sides come together. (Don't know why it's called tree-top; but it looks neater, and won't unravel.)

And the neck tape, made of the same soft fabric as the shirt, feels as comfortable as — well, as everything else about it.

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Mormons catching up mainstream churches

reject what has been done. Church leaders last year removed the names of 390,000 Jewish holocaust victims from their list of the posthumously baptised after protests from Jewish groups.

EUROPE'S BIGGEST PC DEALS

Peace process is terrorists' target

Hamas bombers deal blow to Peres election prospects

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

THE bomb attacks yesterday in Jerusalem and the seaside town of Ashkelon, in which at least 25 died and 77 were injured, could not have come at a worse moment for Israel's ruling Labour coalition, nor for the peace process.

Before the scenes of carnage were screened repeatedly throughout the Jewish state, inflicting and sickening Israelis in equal measure. Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister and four-time election loser, had a comfortable 15-point lead in the latest opinion polls for the election he called for May 29.

The polls, published last Friday in the two biggest selling Israeli papers, *Maariv* and *Yedioth Aharonot*, gave the 72-year-old Labour leader 49 per cent of the vote in the race for Prime Minister — who will be directly elected for the first time in Israel's history — compared with only 34 per cent for his much younger right-wing rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the main Likud opposition party.

It was hard to find a Jewish or Arab commentator yesterday not convinced that Mr Peres's lead will be badly hit by the two bomb attacks, for in an Israeli election security is the main issue.

"Security, security, and again security: that is what rules the decision of most Jewish voters," one leading Israeli journalist said. "Israeli elections are not like those in other democratic countries."

He was speaking before the disturbing scenes in which Mr Peres, widely regarded by his right-wing opponents as "soft" on terrorism and lacking the macho image that many Israelis like in their leaders, was derisively booed by hundreds of onlookers. The jeering took place as he visited the scene of the Jerusalem blast, which happened at the start of the morning rush hour.

Mr Peres's sensitivity was later demonstrated at a press conference, when he snapped at a journalist who asked him how the attacks would damage his election chances. "That is the last question you should



An Israeli woman, wounded in the bomb attack at Jerusalem's central bus station, is taken to hospital

have asked today," the Prime Minister retorted, although his aides admit that the peace process initiated by his assassinated predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, and the election he has deliberately brought forward, are inextricably linked. The aides had been hoping to capitalise on the pro-peace mood which swept the country after Mr Rabin's murder.

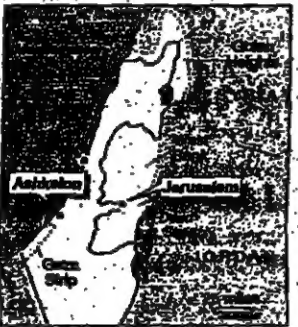
Mr Rabin was himself similarly booed by furious right-wingers when he visited the site of a previous and less serious Hamas bomb, which blew up a bus in a Tel Aviv suburb last July. Mr Rabin then, like Mr Peres yesterday, vowed that the peace process would go on, but he was not fighting an election campaign in which his record on that issue was being challenged.

Last week Likud launched their own election battle with a vicious personal attack on Mr Peres and his attitude towards the future of Israeli sovereignty over annexed east Jerusalem, the Arab sector captured in 1967.

Under the slogan "Peres will divide Jerusalem", Likud politicians — themselves badly wrong-footed by Israel's swing to the left prompted by Mr Rabin's assassination — accused the Prime Minister of planning to hand back east

Jerusalem to the Palestinians in negotiations due to begin immediately after the election. Mr Peres and other ministers, in an atmosphere Labour party sources described as panic, spent most of the week before yesterday's attacks denying this and other damaging allegations that Labour would offer a host of concessions to the Palestinians. Speaking at the news conference yesterday, Mr Peres pledged an uncompromising war against Muslim militants, and said he would honour his agreements with Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which grant Palestinians limited self-rule in towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

By killing and wounding scores of Jews, Hamas leaders



have deliberately played into Likud's hands. As one Hamas activist in Gaza explained recently: "If Likud get back to power, the so-called peace process will collapse in a matter of weeks. We are well aware of that."

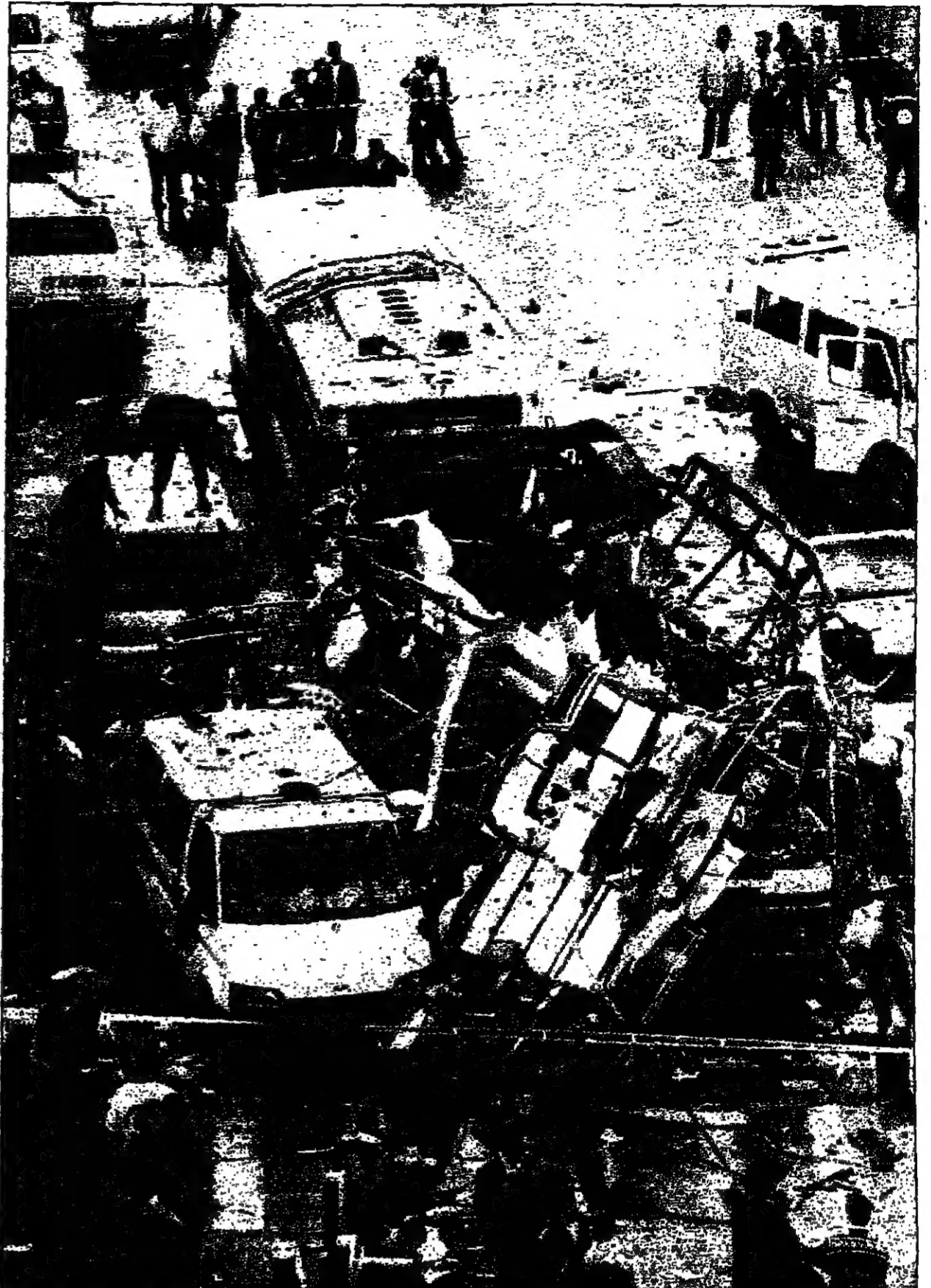
Until yesterday's blasts, which some despairing pro-peace Israelis claimed had reforged the "unholy alliance" between radical Islamic extremists and the Jewish Far Right, Mr Netanyahu had found it hard to mobilise party opinion against a peace deal which many Likud supporters admitted grudgingly seemed to be working, if imperfectly.

Apart from vowing that he would never meet Mr Arafat personally, but leave it to a government minister, Mr Netanyahu was forced to acknowledge that he would leave parts of the 1993 deal in place. But he manoeuvred his party into a perfect position to capitalise on the inevitable fears about the Government's peace policy.

He did this by linking Likud with the harder line Tzomet and giving its leader, Rafael Eitan — who once dismissed Arabs as "cockroaches" — the No 2 position on the joint list for the Knesset.

By persuading Mr Eitan to abandon his own candidacy for the premiership, Mr Netanyahu ensured that any right-wing sympathies roused by Hamas outrages would increase his own chances in what will be a bitter struggle with Mr Peres.

The question being asked last night was how many more times must the Islamic fanatics strike before Mr Peres's 15-point lead has been whittled down to zero, or even been reversed. "The irony is that much as I hate them, the beasts from Hamas could win us this election," said Motti Cohen, a strong Likud supporter and fierce opponent of the peace process. "Every bus bomb between now and May 29 will make it harder for Mr Peres to remain as Prime Minister."



In the aftermath of the Jerusalem bomb, shocked onlookers gather to survey the tangled wreckage of the bus

'I condemn them completely'



Arafat sent condolences to Mr Peres and to the families of the victims

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI cancelled a planned visit to the West Bank yesterday by Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in spite of his condemnation of the attacks.

"I condemn them completely," Mr Arafat said in Gaza City. "This is not a military operation. This is a terrorist operation. It is not only against civilians. It is against the whole peace process and I am sending my condolences to the families of the victims and to the Prime Minister, Shimon Peres."

King Hussein of Jordan said: "My feeling is one of bitterness and disgust. It's an effort to blow up the peace process."

Egypt's Foreign Ministry said: "The two explosions represent a return to practices that should stop within the framework of the ongoing peace process."

Israeli security forces and Palestinian police were expected to arrest many Hamas members last night. The explosions came two days after Israel ended an 11-day closure of the Palestinian territories.

Hezbollah praises terror group

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THERE was praise yesterday for the bombers from Arab guerrilla groups in Beirut and Damascus.

"We welcome any action against the Israeli occupation and we salute the hands which carried out the heroic

actions against the Israelis," said a spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical grouping within the Palestine Liberation Organisation of Yasser Arafat.

The Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which fights Israeli forces in south-

ern Lebanon, said the struggle would go on. "There will be no peace and stability for Israel, however high the level of political or military measures it takes, because of the Jihad (holy war) spirit of those fighters," said Naeem Qassem, secretary-general of the movement.

Major sends his sympathy

JOHN MAJOR last night sent a message of support to Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

"I was shocked to hear of the appalling bombings in Jerusalem and Ashkelon," Mr Major told Mr Peres. "London has suffered its own bombings in the last fortnight, including on a bus last weekend, so I know all too well the devastation they will have caused, shattering both lives and hopes that such indiscriminate and senseless violence might at last have given way to dialogue. Please convey my deep condolences to the victims and their families."

Mr Major added: "I well know the strain that these outrages will impose on your courageous and unremitting efforts to take forward the peace process. But, as we discussed in London earlier this month, while the perpetrators must be relentlessly pursued, they cannot be allowed to disrupt the just search of a democratic society for a lasting and peaceful settlement."

The Board of Deputies of British Jews also condemned the attack.

Clinton deplores killers' dark vision

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE "dark vision" of the bombers who killed 25 people in Israel yesterday was deplored by President Clinton. He promised never to let them derail the American-backed Middle East peace process.

In a White House statement, Mr Clinton said the bombings "offend the conscience of the world. They must not only be condemned; they must be brought to an end." He blamed enemies of peace for trying to turn back progress towards a Middle East in which Arabs and Israelis live in peace. "They have not and will not succeed," he said. "Their dark vision is of the past, not the present; of violence, not hope for a better future."

The Pope told people path-

ered in St Peter's Square in Rome that he felt spiritually close to the families of the victims, adding: "May God inspire all men of goodwill... Once more I turn to all those who believe in dialogue and I invite them not to lose hope."

Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, said he knew Israel would not be stopped from seeking peace. "I know that your determination to continue working towards peace will not be weakened by this tragedy," he said in a message to Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Susanna Agnelli, Foreign Minister of Italy, which holds the EU presidency, said: "Such vile acts of terrorism can provoke only condemnation and abhorrence."

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Rewrite of Maastricht spells little light relief for downcast star players

By GEORGE BROCK

AFTER several years of fitful slumber, Europe's treaty nerds are waking up again. From burrows in Paris, Bonn and Rome, earnest men and women waving wads of newly drafted clauses as thick as telephone directories are emerging to do battle again over the Maastricht treaty.

Tomorrow the French and German Foreign Ministers meet in a last effort to hammer out a programme with which they can gang up on John Major. One day this week, the British officials labouring to



make the White Paper on Europe as boring as possible will finish their soporific work. At the end of next month, the EU's great and

good fly to Turin for the launch of an inter-governmental conference on Maastricht. All the big EU governments are exhausted and depressed by the Maastricht rewrite before it even starts: the talks will not be a barrel of laughs.

Because the conference will probably stretch out for at least a year, many unforeseen mishaps will occur. But one prediction is quite safe: federalists will be grievously disappointed — the conference will "fail". They hope for a "crisis" which will have to be solved by Helmut Kohl. The German Chancellor is the only federal-

ist hero left on the stage now that the late President Mitterrand and Jacques Delors, former President of the European Commission, are gone.

The treaty conference could be obliterated by the row which would erupt if, as seems likely, the 1999 start for the single currency is postponed. But the deadlock which true believers in a united Europe desire is different: such a crisis would allow a small hard core of federalist states to split from the rest. Federalists yearn for Mr Major to dig in his heels so hard that Herr Kohl throws a gigantic wobbly and then

storms off towards a federal Union into at least two classes. The upper tier might not be automatically open to states in the lower class.

Monetary union may yet split the EU, but watch out for signals that cunning draftsmen are working on a treaty fix that might produce some of the same result by rewording one crucial clause. Watch out for mention of Article N. This short clause sits quietly at the front of the Maastricht treaty and hasn't bothered anybody for years. Its most important sentence lays down how treaty changes must be agreed and

says that they "shall enter force after being ratified by all the member states in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements".

This dull-sounding formula is the EU's brake mechanism. Article N was the legal reason why about 45,000 Danes — the anti-treaty majority in their 1992 referendum — stopped the entire Maastricht treaty juggernaut in its tracks. Herr Kohl and Mitterrand must have dreamt either of ignoring or of punishing the recalcitrant Danes, but Article N stood in their way. The treaty could not come into

force until each state had said OK.

So far, no government has publicly suggested changing Article N. But the idea was around in M Delors's later years in Brussels. The German MP, Karl Lamers, who files policy notes for Herr Kohl, definitely has it in mind. Belgian federalists would have no problem with a bold solution to British recalcitrance. Euro-sceptics may claim that Mr Major could block more than he does, but his power to do so would be weaker if anybody began tampering with the brakes.

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Germany will miss monetary union deadline, say MPs

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY will fail to meet the entry criteria for European monetary union next year, the crucial selection year for the single currency, according to calculations circulating in the finance committee of the German parliament.

Both Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, and Theo Waigel, the Finance Minister, were quick yesterday to quash new fretting about Germany's ability to meet the targets. The Chancellor emphasised in a rare television interview last night that he had no intention of choosing between a firm new European currency and the start date of 1999.

"Stability has always been the absolute priority for me," he said. "But you cannot interpret that to mean I am postponing the timetable, absolutely not."

Herr Waigel said his officials were working on a new variant of the European Monetary System to link fully fledged monetary union mem-

bers with those countries wanting, but unable, to enter the system. His officials denied reports yesterday that plans were being forged for the eventuality that only Luxembourg would qualify for monetary union on the basis of 1997 figures. "The German Finance Ministry is not conducting any discussions about delaying the timetable and is not working on an alternative scenario," a spokeswoman said.

There are, however, strong signs of nervousness in Bonn about the financial and economic figures for next year which may well push monetary union out of reach. One of the Maastricht entry criteria is that public indebtedness must not exceed 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Last year, Germany overshot the target, with debt reaching 3.6 per cent. According to the projected figures available to members of the finance committee, the public deficit could almost

double, to DM150 billion (£66.4 billion) by the end of next year.

The reason for the prediction is reduced tax revenue prompted by the economic slowdown, and tax shortfalls that will result from implementing the ambitious 50-point government programme to generate new jobs.

Entrepreneurs are to be given generous tax concessions to encourage them to hire more workers. If these and other promised measures are adopted, and if unemployment remains at its present high level of about four million, public debt is likely to reach as much as 4.02 per cent of gross domestic product.

That would certainly disqualify Germany from membership of the European monetary union and torpedo the whole project unless the start date was delayed.

Herr Waigel said that the figures were purely speculative and emphasised that next year's budget has not even been approved yet. "Who can say today that we will not fulfil the criteria in 1997?"

Herr Kohl made clear that he would be pressing for more sacrifices from the Germans to stay on track for monetary union. "I think we should stop this discussion over who is coming now, or who can and who cannot [join the single currency]. Everyone has to do his homework. We Germans have much to do in this area."

German public opinion is fiercely divided over the project of a single currency. Opinion polls indicate that two-thirds of the population oppose any plan to abandon the mark; the business world is divided between larger companies (which broadly are in favour of EMU) and smaller enterprises which fear that the euro will unleash a serious bout of destructive inflation.



The coffins of two men, who died during a gun battle in which two sons-in-law of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq were also killed, are carried through the streets of Baghdad. The men, described as "martyrs" after they died on Friday helping

Iraq honours gunmen

to kill returned defectors Lieutenant-General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamel, were given a state burial, with Saddam's sons, Uday and Qusay, acting as pallbearers (Michael Theodorou writes). The Iraqi media said the President's sons-in-law, who defected to Jordan last August, were

killed with another brother and their father in a shoot-out after their homecoming. An Iraqi television announcer read a telegram, said to be from the Kamel Hassan family, saying they had killed the defectors to "cleanse their honour".

Uday and Qusay, acting as pallbearers (Michael Theodorou writes). The Iraqi media said the President's sons-in-law, who defected to Jordan last August, were

Libyan mountain 'holds arms plant'

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

LIBYA is building a huge chemical weapons complex inside a hollowed-out mountain, American officials say.

According to intelligence sources quoted in yesterday's New York Times, Libya is digging a network of tunnels covering six square miles under a mountain at Tarhunah, 40 miles southeast of Tripoli. The CIA has yet to obtain photographs of the plant, but construction plans and building specifications have been obtained by the German secret service from German and Austrian companies which provided workers and equipment for the site.

Western intelligence agencies believe the plant could be completed as early as next year, and will be able to produce the ingredients for tonnes of poison gas daily.

Libya, which has been working on chemical and biological weapons since the early 1980s, insists that the project is an irrigation system. American officials dismiss this explanation and say the complex already contains most of Libya's existing stockpile of about 100 tonnes of chemical weapons.

Listing Libya as a "rogue nation" alongside Iran, Iraq and North Korea, John Deutch, the CIA Director, described the complex during

testimony to Congress last week as "the world's largest underground chemical weapons plant".

One of 18 nations believed to be pursuing chemical weapons, Libya has refused to sign a 1993 United Nations convention prohibiting the use, development or stockpiling of chemical arms.

In the 1980s, the United States accused Libya of building a chemical weapons plant at Rabta, southwest of Tripoli, and producing about 100 tonnes of chemical agents.

Libya claims that the Rabta plant was destroyed by a fire started by Western intelligence agents in 1990 — a claim

described by the CIA as a ruse to enable Libya to convert Rabta into a legitimate pharmaceutical plant and to build a replacement underground.

Cash to families: America has agreed to make payments of up to \$300,000 (£190,000) to families of each of the 248 Iranians who were killed when an Iran Air passenger plane was shot down by a US Navy cruiser nearly eight years ago.

State Department officials said the settlement indicated no warning of relations towards Tehran, which the US strongly opposes for its continued sponsorship of Palestinian guerrillas.

Bahrain bombing resumes

MANAMA: A blast at a local newspaper plant was blamed on Iranian-backed Shia Muslim extremists bent on forcing Bahrain's ruling Sunni family to recall the parliament it disbanded 21 years ago (Christopher Walker writes).

The bombing, which came at the end of the holy month of Ramadan, came 24 hours after officials boasted that bombers who recently attacked two luxury hotels had been arrested.

The latest blast, which destroyed the car of the chief editor of the pro-government Al-Ayam, was planned in a supposedly secure area close to a military base.

Sinn Fein official attends Eta rally

SAN SEBASTIAN: Pat Rice, a Sinn Fein councillor in Northern Ireland, accepted an invitation by Herri Batasuna, the political wing of Eta, to be the guest speaker at a weekend rally of Basque separatists that honoured both the IRA and Eta (Edward Owen writes). Eta is opposed to next Sunday's elections in Spain, but used the meeting to present their candidates, mainly widows of separatists killed during an alleged dirty war.

Telephone tap scandal in Paris

PARIS: A new telephone-tapping scandal has erupted after reports that the French secret service recorded the telephone conversations of many citizens, including lawyers, journalists and political figures, between 1987 and 1993 (Ben Macintyre writes). Government ministers from Left and Right backed the scheme, according to the newspaper Le Journal du Dimanche.

Dini forms party

Rome: Lamberto Dini, the caretaker Prime Minister, transformed Italy's election campaign at the weekend by announcing he was forming a centrist party to give stability and governability to the country (Richard Owen writes).

The move stunned the Centre Right, which accused Signor Dini of planning to align himself with the Centre Left. Silvio Berlusconi, the Centre Right candidate for Prime Minister, said Signor Dini, hitherto seen as above party politics, was like a referee who suddenly chose to play for one of the teams.

Signor Dini was appointed by President Scalfaro in January last year, after the collapse of Signor Berlusconi's coal-

ition. He is respected for his administrative ability and his handling of the economy.

On Saturday night he and his wife, Donatella, attended a gala dinner in honour of the actress Sharon Stone. Ms Stone, in Rome to publicise her film Casino, wished Signor Dini "good luck in your new venture", a high-profile endorsement not lost on the public.

Many commentators suspect Signor Dini has stepped in with the tacit encouragement of Signor Scalfaro, who wants to end "revolving-door" governments by seeing through constitutional reforms. Including a referendum on installing a French-style presidency.

Vatican nominations for 'church Oscars' set film buffs reeling

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican, which long ago gave up trying to vet the faithful's reading matter by issuing its Index of forbidden books, started arguments among Roman Catholics and other film buffs alike at the weekend by publishing a list of recommended films.

The list was dubbed "The Church Oscars" by the Italian press. Franco Zeffirelli, the film director, accused the Vatican of putting its authority behind "blasphemous" films such as Pier Paolo Pasolini's *The Gospel According to St Matthew* while ignoring his own religious output.

Vatican sources said the Pope had wanted to join the celebrations marking 100 years of cinema and wished to make the point that films were a force for good as well as bad. The choice was made by a team led by Archbishop John Foley, of the United States, head of the Papal Council for Social Communi-

cation. They chose 45 films, in three categories: religious films, films that propagate moral values and films that are neither religious nor moral but nonetheless have high artistic value.

The religious films include not only Pasolini's *Gospel According to St Matthew*, an idiosyncratic and often disturbing work, but also Roland Joffe's tale of Jesuit missionaries in South America, *The Mission*, starring Jeremy Irons and Robert De Niro, and Fred Zinnemann's *A Man for All Seasons*, with Paul Scofield as Sir Thomas More.

"Morally uplifting" films include Lord Attenborough's *Gandhi*, de Sica's *Bicycle Thieves* and Stephen Spielberg's *Schindler's List*. The third, general category is headed by Stanley Kubrick's *2001, A Space Odyssey* and Disney's *Fantasia*.

Signor Zeffirelli said Pasolini had been "not only mediocre but also an atheist" and his vision of Christianity had been entirely distorted. He had been a "blasphemer".

Members of the papal council said Signor Zeffirelli, who said his own films such as *Brother Sun, Sister Moon*, should have been on the Vatican list, was acting out of pique. Father Luigi Bini, lecturer in ethics at the Catholic University of Milan, said Zeffirelli's films were spectacularly produced and beautiful to look at, but often lacked the kind of originality that shed light on the human condition. Their religious message tended to be mawkish.



Zeffirelli wanted his own films on the list

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Staples's ambitions remains upwardly mobile

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 26 1996



Yeboah adds to his rapidly expanding catalogue of spectacular goals with an overhead strike to put Leeds 2-0 ahead against Birmingham yesterday. Deane added a third later. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Coca-Cola Cup refreshes Wilkinson's multinational force

Leeds quench Wembley thirst

Leeds United 3
Birmingham City 0
(Leeds win 5-1 on agg)

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WEMBLEY Stadium has a magnetic pull that outlasts history and covers an ever-widening field. When Leeds United found that holy grail yesterday, strolling past Birmingham City to claim the right to meet Aston Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup final on March 24, it was not only the first time in the life of many of their supporters that Leeds had won a semi-final, it also had echoes through the minds of the manager, Howard Wilkinson, born and raised a South Yorkshireman, and three of his team, who joyously said that a Wembley final was bred into them in their African homelands.

Such is the tradition of Wembley, even if the Coca-Cola Cup is not quite the real thing. Such is the spread, give or take a xenophobe or two, of our multicultural, multinational FA Cup Premier League make-up.

The victory yesterday, in front of 35,435 spectators, 5,200 of them from Birmingham, was won and lost in a six-minute span shortly after half-time. Birmingham had missed a gilt-edged opportunity when Richardson hesitated five yards out and Lukic brought off a fine reaction save. Within minutes, Masling and Yeboah had scored for Leeds, goals out of Africa, and then Birmingham squandered a penalty, Claridge hitting a post. This meant that, in two seasons under Barry Fry, they had failed to hit the target from the penalty spot 14 times in 23 attempts.

For such a gambler, a manager whose team seems to be put together on the whirl of a roulette wheel, he seems awfully down on his luck. In truth, the method, the perseverance of Wilkinson and of course the wealth of Leeds was always likely to beat the scattergun effect that had taken Birmingham surprisingly far.

"It's a great sense of relief," Wilkinson, who as a player, coach, and manager has worked 34 years to tread Wembley's cup turf, said. "This club does seem to have a pressurised feel about it. Don Revie came along and transformed Leeds for a while, then it slipped back. It hasn't had

the prominence it should in the game, and eight managers in 23 years have not had the satisfaction of taking this club to the holy grail."

He knows Aston Villa are playing exceptionally well, he knows that Birmingham are a league behind. Yet as three early chances were squandered by Masling, the manager could see his team failing in nerve. "We finished the first half like men waiting for the jury to come back," Wilkinson said. "I spent the whole of half-time telling them I had picked a team to go out there and win it, to pass the ball, get hold of it, express themselves. The relief when they did it is something I will savour, but not for long because we have an FA Cup replay at Port Vale on Tuesday."

Indeed, they do, and indeed the gulf between Leeds and

Birmingham had been apparent in all but spirit and will to compete. Before the game, there had been a scuffle in the car park and three arrests, but during and after it there was no hint of the malevolence of a fortnight ago, no sense of any Birmingham supporter doing anything more than add to the theatre of the Elland Road stadium. Yet they knew the odds were stacked high and wondered how their players survived until half-time. Moments before that whistle, McAllister had tested Greimink from 25 yards, and the young Dutch goalkeeper had found some elasticity in his legs, his back and his left hand, which thrillingly parried the ball. Moments later, Roger Dilkes, the referee, went down; he had collided with Claridge, the two of them were stunned and for a moment the play ran wild, unrefereed, until the prone Dilkes managed to get his whistle to his mouth and call for first aid.

Then, after the half-time respite, Leeds took total command. Yeboah, who else, prompted the victory. His shot from outside the area ricocheted to McAllister whose own shot at goal was saved again by Greimink but this time Masling poached the goal from a matter of five yards. It was the 53rd minute, and in the 56th Yeboah excelled. His goal, an overhead volley from 12 yards, ranked maybe fourth or fifth in his season's tally. The Ghanaian has now scored 17 times this season, 30 in his 49 starts for Leeds, and to him "Wembley is a dream come true".

The third goal, four minutes from the end, was merely a

postscript, created by McAllister who, receiving the ball from Wallace, controlled it, looked into the goalmouth, and placed the ball on to the head of Deane with the imperious manner with which he guides Leeds on the field. Deane easily headed home.

Poor Birmingham. Out-classed, tactically out-thought, with one win in 13 games, they have to throw the dice with a longer mission in mind than anything that may be won in 1996. Their fans went down singing "Keep right on to the end of the road." It is a road, for now, leading to nowhere.

For Leeds, there was a swift drink last night. This morning they assemble, Wilkinson considers a trio of wounded players — Dorigo (hamstring), Kelly (bruised shin) and Wetherall (sore knee) — before they journey to the Potteries for the real Cup. He has, some time, to integrate his £4 million Swede, Tomas Brodin, but having embraced as many foreigners as Leeds now have, no one can doubt how much this country, temporarily at least, revels in imported talent. Leeds are on the way to Wembley, all manner and shade of performers in their ranks.

WHY THE WEMBLEY WAIT IS OVER FOR LEEDS UNITED

Leeds United have qualified for the FA Cup Final after a 5-1 aggregate victory over Birmingham City in the semi-final.

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Leeds United 2 Birmingham City 0 (Leeds win 2-0 on 1st leg)

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Simon Barnes, page 27
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Sky waiting to enhance World Cup ratings

FOR certain things — World Cup finals, the Australian Grand Prix and men walking on the moon — I am prepared to get up in the middle of the night. But for foreseeable fiascos... quarter to seven seemed quite early enough.

As it happened, quarter to seven was probably the best time to catch BSkyB's live coverage of England versus South Africa yesterday. True, Gough had just been smacked for nine off an over and Fairbrother was about to demolish all three stumps with his head, but South African wickets were still falling. A few overs later, at 202 for eight, a celebratory cup of tea seemed in order.

By the end of the second cup, South Africa were all out and the satellite station's executives must have been rub-

bing their hands in anticipation of a ratings-enhancing upset. As you may have read on other pages, that air of optimism lasted precisely four balls. As Atherton trudged miserably back to the pavilion, the only consolation was that it was not Tony Greig commenting.

"A very bad start for England," Geoffrey Boycott said, with admirable restraint. But it was also yet another very bad start for those involved in televising the cricket World Cup, the coverage of which is in desperate need of something to rescue it from the wretched tedium imposed by the tournament's organisers.

At the end of a week in which BSkyB announced the launch of pay per view, the big question is not whether £9.95 represents good value for Bru-



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

no against Tyson, but how much the channel should pay its viewers for sitting through live coverage of England versus Holland? With almost another fortnight to go before the tournament proper gets underway with the quarter-finals, the BBC must be delighted that it only shelled out for recorded highlights.

Contrary to what you might expect, however, its satellite rival also has some grounds for self-congratulation. To understand why, one needs a bit

of background. Despite all appearances to the contrary, the cricket World Cup is not a BSkyB production at all. The worldwide television rights for the tournament were acquired by WorldTel, a Connecticut-based company run by the American-Indian entrepreneur, Mark Mascarenhas. This explains why play is occasionally interrupted by cutaway shots of happy supporters waving "WorldTel — you are great" banners.

It also explains why the

coverage has a blatantly commercial, American-style feel to it. Cameras linger obligingly on sponsors' logos, while commentators deliver perfectly flighted name-checks.

In acquiring the British rights from WorldTel, BSkyB played a game of brinkmanship. Although it has not been disclosed what the satellite channel paid, the question is apparently not how much but how little. The fixture list was not a secret, after all. That said, however, whether the channel paid a small enough sum for a tournament that shows no signs of bursting into life remains to be seen.

To provide the actual coverage of the tournament, WorldTel appointed Grand Slam Sports, a British company best known here for its coverage of snooker, boxing

and football. But it has learnt fast about cricket — seconding a number of technical experts to its 250-strong production team from broadcasters around the world that are taking coverage of the competition.

The 24-man commentary team has been assembled in similar vein. The game yesterday, for instance, was an all-party affair — with Boycott and Tony Lewis, of the BBC, joining up with Bob Willis, of Sky, and Robin Jackman and Mike Procter. The practice of matching commentators with countries is both good and bad news for British viewers. The good news is that Greig apparently counts as an Australian, the bad news for supporters of Richie Benaud on this side of the world is that so does he.

Victorious Westner saves best for last

WAYNE WESTNER, of South Africa, sank a fine ten-foot putt on the 18th green to win the FNB Players' Championship yesterday, but the final round in Durban brought disappointment for Paul Bales, of England. Westner, with a total 270, held off an inspired challenge by José Coceres, of Argentina, whose inward 31 for a final round 65 whittled the South African's overnight six-shot advantage down to a single stroke at the finish.

Bales, four shots behind Westner in second place at the start of the day, struck his irons well but his birdie putts would not drop. He claimed third place, however, finishing on 274. Ross McFarlane, of England, and David Feherty, of Ireland, both posted 67s to share fourth place.

Mike Miller, of Scotland, won his first tournament in 17 years when he triumphed in a three-way play-off for the Kenya Open Golf Championship against two other Britons, Robert Lee and Philip Harrison, in Nairobi yesterday.

Cup first for Ipswich

FOOTBALL: Ipswich Town are through to the semi-finals of the UK Living women's FA Cup for the first time in the club's ten-year history after a 2-1 victory over Whitehawk yesterday (Sarah Fonde writes). Two goals in the first half, the first direct from a free-kick by Ally Seymour and the other by the outstanding Kelly Stannard, were enough to see off the visiting team.

Jo Vermeer's goal in the 55th minute, flicked in at the near post from a low cross by Lisa Murray, signalled the start of a spirited second-half comeback by Whitehawk, and they went close several times, but the lack of clinical finishing and a sterling performance from Sarah Howard in the Ipswich goal, denied them an equaliser.

Botha keeps IBF title

BOXING: Frans Botha, right, of South Africa, will be allowed to keep his International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight title despite testing positive for steroids after his contest with Axel Schulz in December. The IBF accepted that Botha took the drugs unwittingly under prescription from a doctor. He was fined £33,000 and ordered to fight a rematch with the German within 180 days.



Super League appeal

RUGBY LEAGUE: Super League in Australia is still planning to start on Friday, in spite of a court judgment in Sydney last week declaring it unlawful (Christopher Irvine writes). An appeal will be lodged today, while the Australian Rugby League is expected to apply for an injunction to prevent the breakaway league starting during the appeal procedure. Without its sister competition, the European Super League would be deprived of the climax of world club championship play-offs, while Great Britain's tour of Australia in the autumn would be put at serious risk.

Walking tall

ATHLETICS: Kerry Saxby-Jones, of Australia, bettered her own world record for the women's five-kilometre walk by almost four seconds in Hobart yesterday. Saxby-Jones, 34, was timed at 20min 13.26sec, nearly four seconds faster than her previous record, set in Sydney over six years ago. She also improved on her 1990 mark a fortnight ago but the record was not sanctioned because the official timing equipment failed and only one accredited judge was at the meeting. She set a record-breaking pace from the start of yesterday's race and said afterwards: "I felt really good."

England squeeze home

NETBALL: England, winners a year ago over Northern Ireland by almost 40 points, were pegged back to a ten-point margin in the home international at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth, on Saturday, winning 50-40. Fiona Murtagh, right, captaining England for the first time, saw her side secure a 43-match unbeaten record against their opponents.



Gooding left trailing

REAL TENNIS: The Hatfield professional, Mike Gooding, trails by three sets to one against the Australian Open champion, Frank Philippelli, after the first day of their best-of-13-set world championship eliminator in Melbourne (Sally Jones writes). The pair are playing off for the right to meet the former world champion, Wayne Davies, of Australia, in the final eliminator to determine who will challenge for Robert Fahey's world title. Philippelli made good early use of his home-court advantage, hitting a string of winners.

Devils steal the points

ICE HOCKEY: On the penultimate weekend of the regular season, the strain at the top of the British league premier division began to show as Cardiff Devils suffered their first defeat in 19 games and Sheffield Steelers dropped a point at home for the first time. Cardiff lost 6-5 at Fife Flyers, whose winner was scored two minutes from time by Kevin St Jacques. At Sheffield, a late goal by Tim Cranston against Newcastle Warriors salvaged a 5-5 draw to put the home side four points ahead of Cardiff with three games to play.

Schofield departs leaving Leeds to ponder the future

Halifax 24
Leeds 35

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WITH Leeds on course for a third successive final appearance in rugby league's Silk Cut Challenge Cup, news of Carry Schofield's departure to Huddersfield has come at the worst possible time. Leeds have grave worries at half back. Not only is Schofield on his way, after nine years at Headingley, but Tony Kemp broke his arm in yesterday's topsy-turvy, quarter-final victory at Thurin Hall.

Schofield is to join the first division side today in an estimated £100,000 three-year deal. The former Great Britain captain, whose £155,000 move from Hull in 1987 was a British record, has championed too many Leeds causes for him to lose sleep about his decision, but his departure leaves a large void.

Salford fall gallantly

TO SCORE six tries and fail to reach the Challenge Cup semi-finals spoke volumes for Salford's stirring effort on Saturday and the shifting sands on which St Helens continue to base their defence (Christopher Irvine writes).

When appointed coach last month, Shaun McRae spoke of his admiration for St Helens' attacking qualities. There was no quibbling with these at the Willows, in a 46-26 victory, but McRae confirmed his worries about his team's defensive backline after Salford, with the tie apparently beyond them at 34-6, came

back to within 12 points through tries by McAvoy (2), Rogers and Panapa. Widnes, who dominated the knockout competitions of the 1970s, moved to within 80 minutes of Wembley when they outplayed their first-division rivals, Hull, at The Boulevard in securing a 20-0 win.

Sonny Whakarau, the New Zealand forward, ended his career for Wakefield Trinity with three tries but could not prevent Bradford Bulls from advancing to the semi-finals for the first time in four years by a margin of 30-18.

Leeds will be hoping to get the second semi-final in tonight's draw, which would give them four weeks to deal with an injury list that now also includes Howard's fractured rib.

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Tomba salutes the crowd after his remarkable victory in the men's slalom yesterday

Tomba on top of the world

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALBERTO TOMBA, jeered at the start and cheered at the finish, charged to victory in the men's slalom yesterday to add that title to the giant slalom he won on Friday at the Alpine skiing world championships in Sierra Nevada, Spain.

The Italian, 29, who had never won a world championship race before, executed a perfect second run down the Neveros piste for a combined time of 1min 42.26sec. It was good enough to earn the fifth gold medal of his career. Mario Reiter, of Austria, won the silver medal, finishing 0.31sec behind Tomba, with Michael von Grünigen, of Switzerland, in third place in 1min 42.51sec.

Tomba was only sixth after the first leg which was won, surprisingly, by Finn-Christian Jagge, the 1992 Olympic champion from Norway, who has been struggling with his

form this season. Tomba, however, had a remarkable second run down the 61-gate course.

Before his arrival last week, Tomba had upset the Spanish skiing enthusiasts by reportedly comparing the Sierra Nevada resort to Morocco and they greeted his departure from the start-but with whis-

Results 35

ties. As they saw his intermediate time, however, and realised they were witnessing something special, the whistles were replaced by mounting applause.

"This is one of the best races I have ever run," Tomba, whose victories helped Italy to finish at the top of the medals table, said. "I was just going for a medal. To win two golds is beyond my wildest dreams."

That second victory meant he shared the title of best skier at the championships with Pernilla Wiberg, of Sweden, who won two women's titles.

Reiter, who won the slalom section of the combined event but finished just out of the medal positions in fourth place, was happy to be on the podium at last. "After the fourth place in the combined, I was going for gold but I really can't complain about the silver," he said.

Von Grünigen, the bronze medal-winner, said he had merely been looking for a "good, solid [second] run", after finishing fifth in the first leg but had not succeeded. "With the mistake I made on the second run, I was lucky to get the bronze," he admitted. "I have never skied so aggressively in my life."

"I would normally prefer the gold but I'm happy with this one."

Master Butler excels against the clock

GETHIN BUTLER opened cycling's new time-trials season yesterday in the manner he ended last year's programme: the master specialist against the clock on courses that demand as much technical skill from a rider as strength (Peter Bryan writes).

That combination again proved a winning one for Butler when he outpaced his rivals in the North Road CC 25-mile hard riders' event at Essendon, in Hertfordshire, to repeat his 1995 victory.

Butler, who is Britain's reigning best time-trial champion at 30 miles, 100 miles and 12 hours, started last of the 86

competitors, who had to endure a continuous downpour that flooded parts of the course to a depth of 12 inches.

He finished in 58min 32sec, the third-fastest time for the event, now in its 41st year, and a new course record.

Butler's likeliest rival, Richard Freestone, suffered a puncture, and finished four minutes behind the winner.

Joe Doran, the Australian, was the closest challenger to Butler, recording 1hr 2min 10sec to hold off Barry Charley by 20 seconds for the runner-up position.

Results, page 35

ENJOY AN EIGHT-DAY TRIP FOR TWO TO LAHORE

Win a trip to the World Cup final

The Times, in association with Pakistan International Airlines, is offering readers the chance to win an eight-day trip for two to the World Cup final in Lahore, with a prize worth more than £6,000.

The winner of our competition, and a companion, will fly Club-Class to Lahore on March 13, courtesy of Pakistan International Airlines, and spend six nights at a top hotel. The itinerary includes guided tours of the city and tickets to the final on Sunday March 17, returning on March 20.

HOW TO ENTER

Starting today, and continuing until Friday, we will set a question a day. Question one appears below. Keep a record of your answers to each question, which will be one or two particular letters of the alphabet. Then on Friday, when you have the final question, rearrange the letters to find the name of one of the host stadiums in this year's World Cup and phone your answer to the competition number which will be printed.

Q1. Who are the current World Cup holders?

The second letter of your answer is required.

Entrants should note that it is the responsibility of the winner and companion, who must be full British passport holders with the right of residence in the UK, to meet all necessary visa and immigration requirements.

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Kitzbühel	20-110	good powder	fair	sun	-1	2/22
Oberurgel	50-110	good varied	good	sun	-4	2/12
St Anton	45-200	good varied	good	fine	-2	2/11
Schladming	50-100	good varied	good	sun	-13	19/2
FRANCE						
Ape d'Huez	115-340	good varied	good	sun	5	20/2
Les Arcs	110-220	good varied	good	fine	-2	23/2
Avoriaz	200-240	good powder	good	sun	0	23/2
Megève	160-180	good varied	good	sun	2	23/2
SWITZERLAND						
Kosters	35-130	good varied	good	fine	1	24/2
Mürren	65	good heavy	good	fine	-1	23/2

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art. - artificial.

THE TIMES

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Failures of diplomacy add to recurring disappointments on the pitch England heading for dishonourable exit

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN RAWALPINDI

RAWALPINDI (South Africa won toss; South Africa 2pts) beat England by 78 runs

ENGLAND are making such a poor impression on this World Cup that if it contained a healthy competitive format they would soon be heading home in shame. Last night, despite another lame batting display, another depressing defeat, they have a guaranteed quarter-final place and can cling to the nebulous prospect of a sudden transformation.

There were signs yesterday that aspects of England's game are improving and that it would not require a complete transformation for them to make further progress. They bowled admirably to restrict South Africa to 230, and although their fielding offered comical moments, it was tidier than of late.

But then came the batting. So brittle, so inferior to at least four competing countries that optimism seems futile. Dennis Silk, the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board and a travelling supporter of the team on tour this winter, chose Saturday to belabour the state of the English game. So, presumably, he was confident of the outcome yesterday. That England even came within telescopic range of the South Africa total was thanks only to some irrelevant hitting when, from the depths of 99 for seven, the game had been irretrievably lost.

England were pounced by a team in a different league, and logic dictates that such form cannot be reversed in three weeks. If this is not sufficiently mortifying, England are compounding their position with some graceless off-field conduct. The events of recent years have given Pakistani people a profound suspicion of English cricketers and they are not revising their opinions.

Already one set of officials has accused England of trying to bribe a groundsman and another set, on Saturday, of "barging" onto a wet ground to train and hampering mop-up operations. England will take issue with the interpretations but perhaps they are not being sufficiently aware of local sensitivities.

They further weakened their case last night when Raymond Illingworth, the manager, failed to appear for the formal post-match media conference, and Michael Atherton, the captain, addressed a Pakistani journalist as "a buffoon". Atherton does not set

Alar Stewart, had to bowl while the day was drizzly and the ball frequently wet. It did not help them and specifically it hampered the spin of Neil Smith, but the seam bowlers compensated with their best spells of the competition. They did particularly well to recover the ground lost in a hectic opening stand that brought South Africa 56 from 12 overs.

Steve Palfreman is no stickler for the coaching manual but he was mightily effective yesterday, albeit after Dominic Cork had misjudged a skied chance to mid-wicket off DeFreitas. It was the advent of Peter Martin that broke the stand, and when Gary Kirsten underestimated the speed of Stewart at mid-on and Hansie Cronje fell to an outswinger from Darren Gough, South Africa were totalling at 88 for three.

Darryl Cullinan had begun to bat with ominous poise when rain forced the players off for 20 minutes. His rhythm lost, Cullinan drove over a slower ball from DeFreitas, and when Atherton recalled Cork to the attack, his second ball won a decision for a catch behind that plainly bewildered Kallis.

England were competing, at least, and if their off-cricketer was eccentric — Fairbrother at one point treading on the ball as he rushed in from cover and tumbling head first into the stumps — South Africa were being contained. Jonty Rhodes made a sprightly 37 from only 32 balls, but the innings ended with nine men in double figures and no one exceeding 38, which was either good teamwork or an underachievement.

It did not take long, however, for South Africa to discover that they had made plenty. Shaun Pollock found his line instantly and Atherton, his feet static, thrust away from his body and was caught behind. It was correct that he should resume opening but it was alarming to see him fall again, adding to a sequence that has now brought him only 59 runs in his last eight international innings.

"Things aren't going great for me at the moment," he said later, "but I feel I need to be one decent score. As a team, we are not batting with any flair or confidence. Only two players, Hick and Thorpe, are in any sort of form."

One of the form players, Hick, lasted only until the eighth over, whipping De Villiers straight to mid-wicket and with the predictable failure of Smith against this high-quality bowling, England were soon 33 for three.

Stewart's efforts to retrench ended in fiasco as he failed to ground his bat while ambulating a single and was thrown out by Symcox. Casual cricket, and indefensible. Symcox then took the ball; spun his off breaks out of the left-hander's rough and dismissed Fairbrother and Thorpe. Up on the balcony, Illingworth sat alone and stone-faced, a more eloquent expression of his mood than anything he might have said later.

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Rhodes, the South Africa batsman, cannot mask his disappointment after being bowled by Martin for 37

Decline and fall has Silk in despair

BY SIMON WILDE

ENGLAND'S critics have been vociferous and numerous in recent weeks as the national team lurched from one bewildering defeat to another, but few are as well qualified to do so — or so sensitively placed — as Dennis Silk, who chose to make his remarks on the eve of the latest heavy defeat at the hands of South Africa.

Some may question the timing of the criticisms attributed to the chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board but England's inept performance in Rawalpindi yesterday only seemed to con-

firm his worst fears. Silk made some frank observations about England's deteriorating position in the world game.

His criticisms are not new; neither are his proposed solutions — the establishment of a national academy, international players contracted to the board of control rather than the counties, and more competitive domestic structure — but coming from him they ought to give rise to sober reflection among several county chief executives.

"I would think we might come about seventh in the rankings of international cricket," he said. "It was

salutary to see how well Holland played against us [last week] and to think that, with their limited resources, they were not that far away in terms of performance."

Silk said he believes England's cricket is in danger of falling further behind that of other nations. "We have no batsman ranked in the world top five, no bowler in the top ten and we have no world-class spinner," he said in the *Mail on Sunday*. "That is a worry when you consider we have the only fully professional structure."

"We used to have pairs of fast bowlers like Trueman and Statham, or more recent-

ly Willis and Botham, who would pelt opposing batsmen. Where are they now? And when was the last time we saw an 18-year-old playing Test cricket for England? There are those who say that it is all cyclical, that it'll be all right on the night. I simply don't believe them."

Silk, whose tenure as chairman will probably end with the formation of a new national cricket board this year, added: "If we are interested in England winning again, it is going to require a tremendous effort of will, where the total commitment of all the counties isn't just towards keeping members happy."

Emergent Kenyans score freely in test of acceptance

Simon Wilde's WORLD CUP EXTRAS

THERE is no doubt about which team has been the revelation of the World Cup, and if Kenya can beat Zimbabwe in Patna today they may take themselves a large step nearer to their ambition of becoming the next Test-playing nation.

Kenya won praise for their enterprising cricket against India and Australia and they are committed to furthering their cause in their remaining matches.

"We may lose all our matches but we want to go down with a fight," Maurice Odumbe, the Kenya captain, said yesterday. "It is important for us to be accepted in the international fold."

Hanuman Singh, the coach, was more specific, however. "We could become a Test team within five years. I expect in five years' time, Kenya will be able to compete at Test level."

Kenya's hopes lie with the ebullient Africans who are now rivaling the influence in the team of the Indians, who took over the game in the post-colonial era. They have already shown what they can do in the field and with the bat but their bowling, if enthusiastic, remains raw.

The other problem is that, according to Peter Lever, the team's bowling coach, only about 300 native Kenyans play the game seriously. The country's 30 clubs have now started to sponsor school talent but the leading players may need to go overseas if they are to further their education.

Atherton's fall

What has happened to Michael Atherton's form with the bat? The man who, for two years, found the responsibility of the England captaincy a spur has seemingly started to find it a burden. Since the start of the year, he has accumulated only 187 runs in 12 innings for his country, including one contribution of 85.

In both 1994 and 1995 he batted for more than 60 hours and scored more than 1,000 runs in Test matches alone, and to that could be thrown in another 900 runs in one-day games. A sure sign of how good his defence was during that period was that he was bowled only eight times in his 73 innings. This year, his stumps have been hit four times already.

The star turn

After the drubbing of England yesterday, South Africa look ever more likely candidates to win the World Cup. They appear past masters of the one-day game, strong in batting, bowling and fielding, as befits a team that has now won eight successive matches in this form of the game. It is odd to remember, therefore, that only just over a year ago, they were regarded as complete one-day duffers after a string of ten defeats in a row, including two to England and the first six matches after Bob Woolmer's appointment as coach.

Hostile witness

Shakoor Rana, Mike Gatting's former sparring partner, has fanned the flames on his once warm relationship with all things English. Asked why Pakistan crowds were hostile towards the England team at the World Cup, he explained that it was because of the "biased reports published in the British newspapers, which were filled by British media persons here... They find a ghost in everything — the air, the food, the hotels and also mock at our culture". With graphic finality, he added: "I will not even wrap a fish in those tabloids."

Spinning tops

Mushtaq Ahmed's three wickets in Gujranwala on Saturday enabled him to become only the second leg spinner after his compatriot, Abdul Qadir, to claim 100 wickets in one-day internationals. Breathing down their necks are Anil Kumble (93 wickets) and Shane Warne (88 wickets). Mushtaq and Kumble are well behind on strike-rate, with Qadir taking his 132 wickets at one every 38 balls and Warne a formidable one every 33.

Indians anticipate a clash that will light up their lives

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN BOMBAY

AUSTRALIA arrived in this teeming city late last night, with the giant floodlights at the Wankhede Stadium illuminating the skyline. The money it cost to light up the midnight air could probably feed the poor souls who live under the lee of the ground for the rest of their wretched lives.

The day-night match between Australia and India tomorrow is the first to be played under floodlights at the ground, and the biggest match so far in the World Cup. With South Africa, these are the teams most favoured to win it, and the fact that this encounter is taking place in Bombay, which likes to think of itself as a glamorous city, lends lustre to the occasion.

last week in Gwalior. So when one refers to cricket fever, it is not idle talk. Indians respond to cricket in the way Italians celebrate football and the unadmitted enthusiasm — so different from the hateful, self-advertising behaviour of English football supporters, for instance — is a joy.

Everywhere, in the newspapers, on television, in the streets, in the very air itself, India is gripped by the World Cup. It is being used to sell everything, from high finance to chewing gum, although the television commercials are not very clever, and are often absurd. Dickie Bird (who is not here) appears in one as a judge; Dominic Cork is in another as a gunslinger. Sachin Tendulkar, like the poor, appears everywhere.

Just why cricket holds this nation in thrall is not difficult to understand. If the Australians left their luxurious hotel, right by the Gateway of India, they could discover the reason for themselves within a minute, so convincing is the evidence in this rambling, mephitic, ungovernable place.

pushers and street musicians, to the crowds who gather outside hotels lobbies just to gawp at rich, white-skinned tourists, cricket is an instrument of fantasy. They hope their players will get the fingering right and make their burdensome lives a little more tolerable.

Demand for the 35,000 tickets is uncontrollable, so there will be another huge television audience to watch Tendulkar bat against Shane Warne. Oddly enough, even in the roadside hovels that serve as homes, television flickers. Tomorrow the authorities are erecting big screens throughout Bombay to broadcast the match to a wider audience.

Australia are down to 13 men after the return home of Craig McDermott, who has a calf injury. It was unclear yesterday whether they would request a replacement. Even without McDermott, they have seven bowlers in the team, in Vishakhapatnam, and there is back-up in Damien Fleming, the swing bowler who has taken a hat-trick in Test cricket, and Shane Lee, the new South Wales all-rounder.



Top tour in each group qualify for quarter-finals. Two points for a win, one for a tie and no result.

GROUP A	P	W	T	L	NR	Pts
Si Lanka	3	3	0	0	0	6
India	3	2	0	1	0	4
Australia	3	1	0	2	0	2
West Indies	3	1	0	2	0	2
Zimbabwe	3	0	0	3	0	0

RESULTS: West Indies beat Zimbabwe by 6 wickets, Hyderabad, Sri Lanka beat Australia, Colombo, India beat Kenya by 7 wickets, Colombo, Sri Lanka beat India by 6 wickets, Colombo, India beat West Indies by 5 wickets, Gwalior, Australia beat Kenya by 87 runs, Visakhapatnam, Sri Lanka beat West Indies, Nagpur, Mar 1: Australia v Zimbabwe, Nagpur, Mar 2: India v Sri Lanka, Delhi, Mar 4: West Indies v Australia, Jaipur, Mar 6: India v Zimbabwe, Kanpur, Mar 8: Sri Lanka v Kenya, Kanpur.

RESULTS: New Zealand beat England by 11 runs, Ahmednagar, South Africa beat Pakistan by 10 runs, Rawalpindi, Pakistan beat Holland by 119 runs, Visakhapatnam, England beat UAE by 5 wickets, Hyderabad, England beat Pakistan by 5 wickets, Hyderabad, England beat Pakistan by 49 runs, Patna, Pakistan beat UAE by 9 wickets, Guwahati, South Africa beat England by 70 runs, Rawalpindi.

Pakistan appear united in defence of their title

FROM ALAN LEE

GUJRANWALA (Pakistan won toss; Pakistan 2pts) beat United Arab Emirates by nine wickets

PAKISTAN have appointed a psychologist to help their defence of the World Cup. They call him their motivational manager and, to judge from their delayed debut in the competition on Saturday, he is doing his job well.

Nasir Aziz has been lecturing the players daily during their month-long training camp, and even allowing for the paucity of the opposition provided by the outclassed Emirates, this was an impressively united performance.

Pakistan have two ways of playing, unstoppable and unplayable. And they showed them both by winning the last World Cup. They remain a highly-strung side, subject to animated divisions, and to observe them in a tournament such as this is to expect a soap opera full of drama and incident. But if their talent is focused, as at first sight it appears to be, there is no question they can win again.

no sign of it here. There was high speed allied to late swing, a combination far better batting teams than the Emirates will be hard pressed to resist. Behind him came Mushtaq Ahmed, his goolgy proving unfathomable.

Wasim Akram, the captain, was content to pull the strings and leave the starring roles to

others. Through the day, he wore a wide smile and, while it can hardly be because he feels his job is secure, the Pakistan captaincy being the high-risk zone of world cricket, it could well indicate his confidence.

The Emirates' meagre score of 109 for nine from 33 overs did not begin to extend Pakistan, despite their loss of Aamir Sohail in the first over. Pakistan won with 15 overs to spare and might have done so even sooner. Today, they play Holland and it is unlikely that they will need to work noticeably harder, although their captain said yesterday that they would be taking nothing for granted.

"We are taking each match seriously, whether facing weak or strong opponents," Wasim said. The players have been told to maintain the same professional attitude they displayed against the UAE.

Steven Lubbers, the Dutch captain, who believes his team are getting better with each game, was full of praise for Hans Jorritsma, who has been helping with training and advice on nutrition. "Hans trained the Pakistan hockey team that won the World Cup in Australia. His experience of local conditions has been very valuable," Lubbers said.

SCOREBOARD

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	
G Mavrogiannis b Mushtaq	13
Sahm Raza c Javed b Asif	22
Ather Saad not out	1
Muhammad Hussain c Waqar b Mushtaq	7
Muhammad Aslam b Mushtaq	1
Muhammad Ishaq b Wasim	12
Arshad Aliq c Javed b Asif	8
A Samanwala b Waqar	10
Ennes b I. W. S. b 2	8
S Zameer b Wasim	1
Arif Aliq not out	0
Ennes b I. W. S. b 2	8
Total (33 overs)	109

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-40, 3-47, 4-53, 5-54, 6-70, 7-80, 8-108, 9-109.
BOWLING: Wasim 7-1-25-2, Waqar 7-0-35-1, Asif 6-0-18-2, Mushtaq 7-0-16-3, Sohail 6-1-16-0.

PAKISTAN

Aamir Sohail b Samanwala	5
Saeed Anwar not out	50
Qazi Ahmed Sr not out	60
Ennes b I. W. S. b 2	17
Total (1 wk, 18 overs)	112
Inzamam-ul-Haq, Javed Mianid, Salam Malik, Iftikhar Alam, Wasim Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis and Asif Javed not out	

FALL OF WICKET: 1-7.
BOWLING: Samanwala 3-0-17-1, Asif 4-0-24-4, Mushtaq 3-1-14-0, Salam 3-0-17-0, Zameer 3-0-25-0, Asrar 2-0-16-0.
Man of the match: Mushtaq Ahmed.
Umpires: D Cooney and S Verheul/agree.

United cut loose in warning to Newcastle

Bolton Wanderers 0
Manchester United 6

By PETER BALL

MANCHESTER UNITED did not so much beat Bolton Wanderers as totally destroy the bottom club at Burnley Park yesterday, reducing Newcastle United's lead at the head of the FA Carling Premiership to four points.

Newcastle still have a game in hand, and Liverpool remain heavily involved, but the manner of yesterday's victory will chill hearts on both Tyneside and Merseyside. With the top two teams meeting at St James' Park next Monday, United could hardly have made their run into form at a better time. This was their eighth win in succession, and the outcome was never in doubt.

In front of Bolton's biggest crowd of the season, United

Bolton offered endeavour, and some flickering runs by the clever Curdie. It never threatened to be enough. From the start, it was clear where the advantage lay. United might have scored in the first minute, and although Schmeichel had to make the first serious save a minute or so later to deny Curdie, it took United only five minutes to go in front.

Kean sent Giggs clear, and the Welshman lobbed the ball over Phillips before hitting a dipping volley over Branagan. The bar intervened to deny Giggs reward for a delightful piece of skill, but it did not deny United, Beckham arriving to head home the rebound.

Another five minutes and Cole should have made it 2-0, but Branagan made a flying save to deny his header. The goalkeeper was less fortunate as Bruce met Beckham's corner to claim his first goal of the season.

That effectively was that, and United began to coast. Even so, Bolton showed few signs of being able to take advantage, and when they did get a sight of goal, Coleman, who had got free to meet Thompson's free kick, glanced his header wide.

A goal then, just after the half-hour, might have made a game of it for a time, but it did not come, and when Sellers did get a shot on target, ten minutes after the interval, Schmeichel denied him with a diving save.

THE RUN-IN

NEWCASTLE UNITED
Middlesbrough (a), 18:45; Arsenal (a), 19:00; Tottenham (h), 19:15; Manchester (h), 19:30; Liverpool (a), 19:45; Everton (h), 20:00; Chelsea (a), 20:15; Wimbledon (h), 20:30; Bolton (h), 20:45; Reading (h), 21:00; Millwall (h), 21:15; Luton (h), 21:30; Nottm Forest (h), 21:45; Bury (h), 22:00; Walsley (h), 22:15; Barnsley (h), 22:30; Blackpool (h), 22:45; Exeter (h), 23:00; Torquay (h), 23:15; Dagenham (h), 23:30; Maidstone (h), 23:45; Dover (h), 24:00; Margate (h), 24:15; Maidstone (h), 24:30; Dover (h), 24:45; Margate (h), 25:00; Maidstone (h), 25:15; Dover (h), 25:30; Margate (h), 25:45; Maidstone (h), 26:00; Dover (h), 26:15; Margate (h), 26:30; Maidstone (h), 26:45; Dover (h), 27:00; Margate (h), 27:15; Maidstone (h), 27:30; Dover (h), 27:45; Margate (h), 28:00; Maidstone (h), 28:15; Dover (h), 28:30; Margate (h), 28:45; Maidstone (h), 29:00; Dover (h), 29:15; Margate (h), 29:30; Maidstone (h), 29:45; Dover (h), 30:00; Margate (h), 30:15; Maidstone (h), 30:30; Dover (h), 30:45; Margate (h), 31:00; 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Laudrup's loyalty bonus lifts Rangers

IN AN era when players seek regular and lucrative transfers, acts of loyalty cry out for an explanation. After months of speculation that he yearned to return to a more cosmopolitan environment, Brian Laudrup announced ten days ago that he would actually extend his contract with Rangers until 1998. His side's significant 1-0 victory over Aberdeen at Pittodrie yesterday provided an opportunity to ponder his fidelity.

It may just be that the Dane appreciates being at a club where he is so greatly needed. Laudrup stands at the very heart of all Rangers' ambitions and this win, which re-establishes a three-point lead over Celtic in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, was the product of his artistry. A dry and pitted surface got the better of almost every other player, but it could not hinder Laudrup.

The forward displayed the control, in the 31st minute, to beat Grant before being brought down by Irvine's coarse challenge. Paul Gascoigne rolled the penalty into the corner of the net, having sent Michael Watt the wrong way. The composure of the England midfield player in a weekend that brought more reports concerning his personal life is remarkable, but it could be that the pitch is one of the few havens still available to him.

There were not many others who could claim to be as comfortable at their work yesterday. Even Laudrup was briefly tainted by fallibility, four minutes from the interval, when Brown's pass found him on the left and he was unable to produce the elevation to clear the goalkeeper with his chip.

The scrappiness of the general play did tend to seep into the finishing, notably when Laudrup and Gascoigne in turn attempted to end a move in the second half by strolling round Watt to score.

The goalkeeper thwarted them. Even if they did fail, though, the two Rangers men had at least attempted to provide a flourish in a contest that was incurably clumsy.

Aberdeen sold Eoin Jess to Coventry City for £2 million last week and the lack of refinement or poise in their build-up yesterday provided a memorial of sorts to the arts with which he had furnished the club. By way of a replacement, Aberdeen today hope to sign Stephen Crawford from Raith Rovers for £600,000.

They also spurned chances, the most significant of them in the 28th minute. Windass

KEVIN
McCARRA



**Scottish
commentary**

slipped a ball into a space on the right side of the Rangers defence that surely ought to have been occupied by Petric. The shot, however, was mis-hit by Dods and skipped wide of the post. When Aberdeen's timing did prove sweet-
early in the second half, Goram clawed away a drive by Windass that was flighted for the top corner.

In the closing stages, Aberdeen had greater cause still to feel surly about this defeat when, with four minutes left, Windass again looked likely to score, from Miller's corner, but the Rangers veteran, Brown, drafted in because Gough still has not recovered from a back injury, blocked his header.

Disappointment was not the only sour emotion of the afternoon, for the game produced nine bookings, four of them collected by Aberdeen and five by Rangers. Hugh Dallas, the referee, could mount a logical defence of his actions in every instance, but the absence of any leniency must also be understood in terms of previous events.

When these teams last met in November, the match official, John Rowbotham, ignored incidents which later led the Procurator Fiscal to consider bringing criminal charges against the men involved. Since then, refereeing in Scotland has become a topic of obsessive discussion and, instead of providing a framework in which a match takes place, it has become an element in the play itself. Dallas could not take the risk of appearing negligent. All the same, his decisions had no bearing on the outcome. Aberdeen have now lost all four of their home matches against the Old Firm this season.

On Saturday, Celtic concluded the signing, until the end of the season, of Jorge Cadete, the Portugal international, although he did not play in the 4-0 victory over Partick Thistle. As they continue to demonstrate a financial strength unknown to any other Scottish club, Celtic and Rangers need fear only one another nowadays.

Efficient Stevenage feeling left out

Stevenage Borough 1
Hednesford Town 0

By KELLY PRICE

THE silverware is within their grasp, but the real prize remains tantalisingly, almost mockingly, out of reach. Come August, Sevenage Borough will have a ground fit for the Endsleigh Insurance League and a team equally up to scratch, yet their brave new world will probably dawn at Bromsgrove when it could have been at Bury.

It is becoming a tiresome, bitter, tale. In the past two seasons, Kidderminster Harriers and Macclesfield Town have won the right to automatic promotion to the fully professional ranks by their efforts on the pitch, only to be denied elevation by strictures off it. Now Stevenage, who maintained their lead in the Vauxhall Conference with this gritty victory on Saturday, are favourites to complete a hat-trick that the "fifth division" would hardly do without.

Frustration is not the half of it. "We are in sport, and sport is about winning and losing and promotion and relegation," Victor Green, the Stevenage chairman, said. "What they are doing is denying us the basic ingredient of sport."

They are the Football League, which decrees that incoming clubs must have grounds completed six months before they know if they will need them. Broadhall Way, Stevenage's modest but modern home, was not ready on December 31, when the annual deadline falls. By the summer it will be, at a cost of £850,000, "come what may". Green said.

All of which leaves Torquay United, adrift in the third division, laughing, and Paul Fairclough, the Stevenage manager, and his players to carry on winning and dreaming of what might have been. "They are all ambitious, but I cannot fault their attitude," Fairclough said. "I called a meeting on November 24 to tell them that we would not be going up, and they went out and beat Runcorn 8-0 the next day. They have responded with brilliancy." An unbeaten run of 21 league matches bears testimony to that.

His players have talent and time on their side. At 45, Fairclough has more reason to rue the "double standards" he believes the Football League operates. Eighteen months ago he gave up a safe and lucrative teaching post to go full-time. Now, even Stevenage's fourth championship in six years would not enable him to fulfil an ambition of managing in the League.

Victory still tastes sweet, however. On Saturday it was achieved largely through Barry Hayler's nineteenth goal of the season, after 15 minutes, and Efstefor Sodje's authoritative defending on a bog of a pitch after Wilmot, the Stevenage goalkeeper, had been sent off on the stroke of half-time for handling outside this area. Both looked good enough to play at a higher level. Both will probably have to move to do so.

STEVENS-BOURBON (4-4-2): R. Wainor
K Webster, E Sodis, M Smith, R Mulchall
D Venables, S Bary, P Barrowfield, A
Lynch (auto: D Gallagher, 45min) — B
Hayles (auto: S Marshall, 57), C Brown
Hayles: S Cretton, 90;

HEDNESFORD TOWN (4-3-1-2): R. Wainor
— P Carly, S Essex, W Simpson, K
Collins — S Latta (auto: S Devine, 60), B Mc
Nally, G Fitzpatrick — T Sower (auto: S Burr,
31) — D Foreman (auto: D Hammett, 68),
O Connor.

Referee: S Smith.

Taylor's return leaves Watford breathless

It has not taken Graham Taylor long to discover the magnitude of the job he has taken on at Watford. Elton John wants him to put the heart and soul back into the club, but he is going to have to start with the legs.

The 'romantics' may have warbled about a return to the yellow brick road while the cynics scoffed about a turnip going back to his roots. The reality was more prosaic: Watford were just not fit enough to celebrate Taylor's return in the style to which he was once accustomed.

The early signs were promising enough. There was genuine warmth in the welcome as he took the field and raised the arms of Luther Blissett and Kerry Jackett, two of his old boys whom he has asked to run the team while he gets on with his new job as general manager. And the old passions stirred as Watford surged into a two-goal lead by half-time.

Then they simply ran out of steam. A goal within two minutes of the resumption put Ipswich back into the game and there was a strange air of inevitability about the proceedings as they went on to score two more and show precisely why Watford are

Pat Gibson sees the size of the task facing the former England manager

Taylor kept his thoughts to himself afterwards, leaving himself to put a brave face on task which seems beyond reach. "We had won only two of our last 22 games, so we knew we had a lot to do," he said. "But I am not too worried. There are still 17 games to go so we've got plenty of time and we showed enough in the first half to make us believe we can turn round."

It was a typical show of optimism from Blissett, who such an enthusiast for the game that he was still playing, and scoring goals, for Epsom Town in the Epsom League when he got the call last week. Taylor, however, must know differently. The club which he left from the old fourth division the first, taking in an FA Cup Final along the way, has degenerated to such an extent

that he has no option but to start all over again.

"Judge me on whether the club, as a whole, has progressed after three years," he has said, as if admitting that whatever he does between now and the end of the season, when he will hang up his trunksuit and hand over to a team manager, will not make a lot of difference.

There were shades of the old Watford in the way White past them ahead with his first goal since moving from Notts County, and Palmer added a second after Wright had failed to hold Mooney's free kick. After that, the levels of fitness and the paucity of the defending were quite alarming, as Uhlenbeck swept through unchallenged to score Ipswich's first goal and then set up two more for Mathie. "I played my 'get out of jail' card," George Burley, the Ipswich manager, said. How Taylor must wish he had one.

WATFORD (#4-2): K Miller — N Gobin, D Holdsworth, K Miller, D Barnes — G Pervez (pub, D Bazeley, 61myr), A Hessesthaler, S Palmer, T Mooney (pub, C Remiga, 72) — D White, K Phelp.

IPSWICH TOWN (#4-2): R Wright — G Unterbeck, C Thomsen, T Vaughan, M Tanco — M Stoddell (pub, J Searcott, 63), P Mason, S Sedgley, S Mazon — A Mathie (pub, N Gregory, 66), J Marshall, Referee: P Richards.



Taylor points the way but his Watford side failed to respond at Vicarage Road

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Ladejo in hot water for playing the crowd

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

THE man from Quiet Storm Associates ran like lightning and spread looks of thunder on the faces of senior British athletics officials on Saturday. Dark skies hang over Du'aine Ladejo, Britain's brightest prospect for a gold medal at the European indoor championships in Stockholm next month.

Ladejo is to be spoken to by Verona Elder, the Great Britain team manager, about his antics on the last lap of the relay in the McDonald's international between Great Britain and France at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow. A quiet word now should save a storm later for the athlete who set up Quiet Storm as his personal management company after winning the European indoor 400 metres title in 1994.

Having won the individual 400 metres in 46.39sec on Saturday, Ladejo was so comfortably ahead in the relay that he waved the baton at spectators several times during the last lap. The crowd enjoyed it but such behaviour belittled the opposition, especially on the finish straight

hurdles. Ladejo will be the only Briton in Stockholm from whom victory will be expected. Jarrett did not rule out his participation, though Mike McFarlane, his coach, had said earlier the decision to end his indoor season had been made.

Ashia Hansen, in the triple jump, and Jason Gardener, in the 60 metres, are potential winners without being clear favourites. John Regis, in the 200 metres, and Dalton Grant, in the high jump, would fall into that category too, but are making late decisions on whether to go.

Given that none of Britain's most successful athletes — Christie, Gurnell, Edwards, Jackson, Holmes — will be contesting the European event, Britain has few medal hopes, so to lose Melanie Neef and Mark Hylton would be a considerable blow. Each has a groin injury and is doubtful.

Neef withdrew on Saturday, having not trained for a week. Hylton was fine in warm up but suffered during the race. "It is painful walking on it," he said. But, so deep is the well of British athletics, that split buckets are usually replaced.

ENGLAND won the TSB Schools indoor international matches against Scotland at Birmingham yesterday, with the boys team particularly dominant. Best of the English winners were Jonathan Keith, in the 1,500 metres, and Barry Woodward, in the 800 metres.

when Ladejo deliberately slowed down to let the Frenchman, Bruno Wavelot, draw tantalisingly close before speeding up again.

For less showing off in a similar position at RAF Cosford some years ago, Brian Whittle was admonished by Frank Dick, then Britain's chief coach, and Andy Norman, head of promotions. Elder said: "It is not the sort of thing we would encourage. I will be speaking to Du'aine about it. But he has got back after a dreadful injury last year and he is obviously so excited."

Ladejo, European champion outdoors as well as indoors, said: "It was to do with me and the crowd, me entertaining them. It was nothing to do with me taking the mickey."

Unless Tony Jarrett recovers from the back injury which forced him out of the 60 metres



Ladejo: denied trying to belittle opponents

Ciniglio celebrates qualifying success

FROM RICHARD EATON IN PRAGUE

ENGLAND's triumph on Saturday in getting both men's and women's squads to the badminton world team championships finals via third-place play-off matches has created glimmers of hope that years in the doldrums may come to an end.

The men's 3-2 victory over Holland and the women's unexpected 3-2 success over Sweden were achieved with six players making their debuts in either the Thomas or Uber Cup.

"These successes have given me as much pleasure as any," Chris Ciniglio, the team manager, said. "We did not expect to get both teams through. At last we can see some light at the end of the tunnel, and it is a bit of a fairy tale to be able to finish this way." Ciniglio retires two months after the finals, which take place in Hong Kong in May.

The most surprising victories were those of Joanne Muggeridge, who won twice, having only gained the chance to do so because Joanne

Wright had gone home with flu. Muggeridge's 11-7, 11-6 victory over Cathrine Bengtsson, a European silver medal-winner, was one of the best wins of her career. Two hours later, she and Julie Bradbury, who had never previously played together, beat Maria Bengtsson and Margit Borg 15-4, 15-10.

"When it came to it, our players had more character than theirs," Karen Chapman, the England coach, said. England's other win came from the hardworking Alison Humby, although the outstanding player, as she has been for some time, was Bradbury.

Another notable success was achieved by Darren Hall, who played his best badminton for three years in overcoming Jeroen van Dijk, the world No.21, 15-12, 15-6. The men's team joined Denmark and Sweden in the finals, while the women will accompany Denmark and Russia.

Results, page 35

Topolski delighted at Oxford's degree of progress



Oxford's anticipated contest with London University's top crew on the Tideway failed to materialise yesterday (Mike Rosewell writes). London University, with four of their star men — Rupert Obholzer, Tim Foster, Graham Smith and Mat Parish — unavailable due to Britain squad commitments, and with other key men sick or injured, declined to take part.

A Tyrion club crew, composed of six

London University "old boys" and two students, substituted and raced Oxford from Chiswick to Hammersmith, Oxford winning by two lengths in a fast time which pleased Dan Topolski, their coaching director. Topolski is having a busy year, being involved with the Oxford crew and acting as adviser to the filming of *True Blue*, his book of the 1987 Oxford medal.

Oxford used the same crew which lost to

Imperial College two weeks previously, although there were some positional alterations. Paul Berger and Ben Main, the Americans, alternating between the five and seven seats. Cambridge, less in the limelight than Oxford so far this spring, also appeared on the Tideway this weekend and undertook some training with London Rowing Club.

Cambridge, with a line-up which

included Ethan Ayer, their 6ft 5in American, and Nick Burfitt, a British Olympic oarsman in Seoul and Barcelona, both of whom did not appear in Cambridge's pre-Christmas trial eights due to illness, came out faster in both the low-rate work and short bursts of effort.

Both camps have a week to finalise their decisions before the official challenge and crew announcement on March 4.

Kwan outstanding among skating elite

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN PARIS

THE Bercy Stadium here on Saturday evening was the setting for the highest class of figure skating in the history of the sport. The format of the inaugural Champions' Series was such that paraded before 12,000 spectators in the final was the best, with a few possible exceptions, that competitive skating has to offer.

The so-called professional championships, mostly in the United States, trumpet the number of Olympic and world gold-medal winners they can muster, but discerning eyes can easily distinguish between the meritorious and the meretricious.

What does, say, an Olympic title in 1980 mean 16 years later? Few of those who compete for a professional title today could live with those who saw on Saturday, any more than Jack Nicklaus could hold a hope of adding to his 18 major golf titles.

The big winner on Saturday was Michelle Kwan, a 15-year-old American of astonishing maturity, on the ice and off it. Skating last, she was able to judge that victory in the free skating would launch her to the top, since the leader, Lu Chen, China's holder of the world title, had been so unhinged by a fall in her opening

triple lutz that she succeeded with only two triples. Kwan, on the other hand, safely executed the lutz and was further fortified immediately by two triple toe loops in combination. Three more triples followed and, if her spins are less impressive, she achieves an elegance of line surpassed only perhaps by Chen — when the Chinese girl stands up.

Kwan's prize money, \$60,000 (about £40,000), raised her total for the series to \$150,000, to which an untold treasury from exhibitions has to be added. "Amateur" skating has come a long way in the last 12 months.

The other results went according to expectations in the light of Friday's short programmes. In the men's event, Alexei Urmanov, the Russian Olympic champion, held off the challenge of Elvis Stojko, the world champion from Canada.

Their competition was otherwise notable for Stojko's success with a quadruple toe loop, combined with a double, and for Eric Millor's combination of two triple loops, a unique achievement, as far as anyone here can tell.

Results, page 35

Cannock surrender two-goal advantage

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

A TWO-GOAL lead in hockey is no safe haven, as was demonstrated yesterday at Reading, where Cannock lost their advantage and shared four goals with the home side in the National League. In a torrent of strong running, Cannock looked more dangerous, and Mason, the Reading goalkeeper, was kept busy.

Cannock went ahead in the tenth minute with a goal by Mayer, and Piddock added the second from Mayer's pass five minutes before the interval. Reading survived five short corners in the second half before Osborn brought them back into the match by converting a penalty stroke in the 54th minute.

Eleven minutes later, Ashdown levelled the score from a short corner while Mayer was under suspension.

Southgate regained the leadership of the first division with an emphatic 5-2 home win over Surbiton, who were leading 2-1 and might have been better off if Elmitt had not missed a penalty stroke.

Both goals for Surbiton were scored by Sexton, the second from a short corner. Southgate replied with goals by Sean Kerry, from a short corner, two by Waugh, also from short corners, with

Woods and Simons adding to the score.

Old Loughboroughians could manage only a 4-4 draw with Stourport, who were leading 3-2 before Morrison levelled three minutes before the end. Stourport scored through Lashford, Bertram, from a short corner, and Harradine.

Nick Thompson, from a short corner, and Gladman replied for Old Loughboroughians before Morrison spared their blushes.

Stourport remain anchored to the bottom of the table. Bedford Tigers caused a mild surprise by defeating Teddington 1-0 with a goal by Jagdeed Soor in the fortieth minute, while Trojans held Havant to a goalless draw. Hounslow recorded a 4-1 away win over Bourneville, Williamson scoring twice for Hounslow, from a short corner and a penalty stroke.

Guildford went briefly to the top of the table on Saturday by defeating East Grinstead 2-1. Jennings, from a short corner, and Williams scored for Guildford, and Bentley for East Grinstead.

Richmond achieved a valuable 4-0 win over Bromley in the second division but are still in danger of relegation.

Results, page 35

Mistral sails on unfavourable tide

Edward Gorman finds economic ill-winds blowing a grand circumnavigation off course

Pierre Fehlmann thought he had come up with the ultimate solution to round-the-world yacht racing when he launched his one-design Grand Mistral race a year ago. Circumnavigating from Marseilles, it was to be more competitive than the Whitbread, more fun for the sailors and — crucially — much cheaper to enter.

The key was that unlike the Whitbread, which requires boats to be built and equipped by each team at huge expense, Fehlmann would make the yachts himself and then hire them to skippers who would persuade sponsors to rent them for the period of the race. The Mistral was thus to be more affordable and a better test of pure ocean-racing skill.

But with six months to the September start, this brave new competitor is struggling for credibility and, possibly, survival. Early predictions by Fehlmann's team that syndicates would sign rental agreements on the 50-foot monohulls early and in numbers, now look optimistic.

The Mistral has attracted only three confirmed syndicates — Luddie Ingvall (Nicorette), Grant Dalton (Merit Cup) and Marc Pajot (Marseille-Provence). After that there is a long list of skippers who may be getting the money together.

The race newsletter faithfully records many of those allegedly "showing interest in taking part", but a fair proportion have either given up looking for money or are concentrating on a Whitbread campaign.

At race headquarters in Morges, Switzerland, the atmosphere is tense. While supporters of the Mistral accuse British yachtsmen and media of jumping on the bandwagon to condemn the race as a failure before it has started, officials barely conceal their growing unease.

Hans Bernhard, the race communications manager, speaks of walking a tightrope. "We have got organised to build eight boats which is an enormous financial strain. Our commitment to the race sponsors and to the signed entrants is for eight boats — so we are just working on that, which is pretty tough right now," he said.

Berthard blames the poor economic climate for the failure to attract more syndicates. "There is a lot of talk and

negotiation going on. We are making good progress but the pace has slowed since the beginning of the year."

Berthard claims a number of groups are close to signing deals, including a Russian syndicate which last week announced support from Aeroflot and Vnukovo Airlines, a South African venture and one from Luxembourg.

However, if eight syndicates cannot be found, the organisers claim the existing entrants will be prepared to go round the world in a fleet of six or possibly five, so long as they are crewed and skippered to a high level. They cite as precedent the last Whitbread, which ended up with only three competitive main.

There may be a last-minute rush to claim the new boats but the odds are not good. Despite the innovation of renting yachts, the bill for a credible crack at the Mistral is still over £3 million. And many observers believe Fehlmann should not have tried to squeeze his event into the year before the next Whitbread but placed it next year through the four-year rest period between races.

From a British perspective, the race has struggled for credibility against the Whitbread which, now on a one-design footing, itself is the one to win. The BT Global Challenge will also eat up media coverage and the limited appetite among the general public for round-the-world racing. The Mistral's cause here is not helped by having no British port of call. Nor is there a significant television deal for coverage of the race here.

In Marseilles this weekend, Ingvall, the first to take possession of a Mistral boat, which are being turned out of the mould at a rate of one every three weeks at a completed cost of SwFr35 million each, was preparing for his first test sail even though he does not know who the opposition will be.

But he sounded characteristically bullish. "The boat construction is the most critical area. If they stop building them, then I would be worried," he said. Ingvall believes five or six yachts on the start line will be enough and is impressed with the Far-designed Mistral boat, which he calls "an unbelievable racing machine which is faster and meaner than anything else".

Gourlay's inheritance realises title

By GORDON ALLAN

DAVID GOURLAY Jr, a member of a renowned bowling family north of the border, won the Churchill Insurance world indoor singles championship yesterday when he beat Hugh Duff, of Cumberland, 2-7, 7-5, 7-6, 3-7, 7-1 at the Preston Guild Hall.

In doing so, Gourlay, 29, from Prestwick, became the second unseeded player to win the title. Duff was the first, at Alexandra Palace in 1988. Gourlay's share of the prize-money was £27,000. Duff's £14,000.

Duff, 32, won the first set without undue delay. He started the second in the same vein, but Gourlay dug in and eventually claimed it. Beginning to show the form that enabled him to knock out Mervyn King in the semi-finals after coming from two sets down, Gourlay edged the third after trailing 6-2.

Duff tied the match in the fourth with the help of a dished jack for three shots. The fifth, like the first, was soon over, Duff missing with a drive when Gourlay held two on the last end.

"I used to watch all this on television and wish I was there on the rink," Gourlay said. "It was the most sporting final I've ever played in. Hugh played some fantastic bowls in the fourth set to put me under pressure."

"That was the best I've played in the whole tournament," Duff said, "and yet I lost. I don't think I did anything wrong. David took his chances and all credit to him. He's always looked a potential world champion."



Gourlay leads off against Duff during his victory in the world indoor singles event. Photograph: Peter Lomas

Results, page 35

Ronald Gribble braves the bleak midwinter to join a Lake District course for mountain walking leaders

True grit and the making of a rock star

I was just like the dawn of D-Day. Teams dressed in weatherproofs and walking boots knelt on the floor of the HQ, poring over maps with flashlights and compasses. The time: 2200hrs on a moonlit winter's night in the Lake District.

Within minutes of being given orders they would be combing the surrounding woods and hills by torchlight, like a string of fairy lights. The mission: to pinpoint their targets. The reward: the first step to becoming a qualified mountain walking leader.

I was with a group of 32 men and four women on a four-day assessment course at Derwentwater, near Keswick in Cumbria. Our first test was to show our skills in night navigation and to find ten white and red markers, the size of small box kites, planted over an area of about a square mile. I was there as a reporter, but the tension was real enough.

This was a game, but in real life the ability to find your way in the dark in the mountains can make the difference between life and death. Get lost and you could die of hypothermia. Take a wrong turning and you might fall over a cliff. The candidates ranged from an 18-year-old student to a retired headmaster. They included middle-managers, teachers, a policeman, a ski instructor and a former manager of a North Sea oil rig.

We were divided into groups. I shadowed Bernard Townsend, a senior fireman from Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, and Bill Deacon, a former warrant officer who, after a 24-year career with the British Army in Germany, had opened a small hotel in Llandudno, Gwynedd. Both men, in their late forties, were joined by Geoff Royal, 22, from Rossendale, Lancashire, who had worked for the PGL youth activities organisation and helped with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme.

SPORT FOR ALL

The first rule of being a leader is to bring your party back safely, whatever the weather," said assessor Mike Morley, an experienced mountain walking guide from the Isle of Wight, who took early retirement from a career in education. "In the winter the light can fade very quickly in the mountains, so a leader must be able to navigate in the dark."

By midnight we had been stumbling about in the blackness for two hours and the new batteries in my torch were beginning to run down. My first mistake: always carry a spare power pack.

The markers were hidden in undergrowth in the hills, down by the jetty on the lake, over wire fences, in the middle of fields. It was heavy going in places with knee-high bracken. Branches snapped and ferns crunched under foot. Phosphorus scattered. Tree roots waited to trip us up. Branches dangled low, ready to poke out an eye.

One of our team fell. "I'm OK," cried a voice in the dark. "Don't stop. Carry on, time is running out." We shone a light on our map, took a bearing and checked our watches. Only two more targets to go. Then, mission accomplished, it was back to base at breakfast speed to avoid losing points. Breathless and panting, I



Assessor Mike Morley, left, briefs fireman Bernard Townsend, fair hair, and Geoff Royal, crew cut, before they set out with former soldier Bill Deacon, right, on an exercise

hurried to keep up with my companions, the welcoming brief of Andy Berlyn, the walking operations manager, still ringing in my ears: "If tomorrow some of you feel that this is not for you, and you want to go home, that's fine. Just say so. Your room-mate will be pleased anyway, because you probably snore. And we won't have to feed you for the rest of the course."

'By the third day five had quit. One man was in tears'

The next morning the first candidate quit. By the third day five would have left. They went quietly after breakfast. "One man had tears in his eyes," said an assessor.

We nodded knowingly and moved on to the next exercise. There was no room for sentiment in the timetable.

Smoking was banned and the bar was not open until the last night. From Friday tea-time until Monday lunchtime, the candidates were put under pressure to test their ability to think clearly under stress. Their performances were monitored from breakfast to bedtime and each individual's strengths and weaknesses later analysed by the 14-strong team of assessors over cups of coffee until after midnight to gauge their potential as a leader.

Their self-confidence, judgment and practical skills were tested to the limit. When they returned in the late afternoon, wet and muddy from outdoor exercises, they were assembled for a debriefing before dinner, followed by evening activities.

There were no free periods apart from meal breaks, and often just time to snatch a shower before the next exercise, briefing or order to kit up and head for the hills.

"I sometimes think that we underestimate the stress we put them under," said one assessor, a former prison officer. "They probably don't sleep much." He was right. Many stayed up late to prepare for exams and interviews or rose early to bone up before breakfast.

The early starts, action-packed days and working evenings were designed to reflect the true lot of a professional guide, should they be lucky — or unlucky — enough to pass the criteria and qualify to lead parties of walkers in the mountains.

We spent the best part of Saturday on map-reading exercises in "Wainwright country" in the Gramscot Fell, plodding up sodden hillsides dotted with scruffy sheep, scrambling over razor-sharp rocks and finding pinpricks on the maps with compasses.

That evening, national park ranger, Roy Harding, an ex-policeman and a former member of the Keswick mountain rescue team, gave us a crash course in first aid, demonstrated mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and showed us how to deal with accidents and how to survive in the mountains.

Next day we found ourselves climbing the 2,000ft-high Sall on a party management exercise and about to put the first-aid training to the test.

Each candidate had to take a turn at leading, watched by the assessors, who laid on a series of "incidents" — with members of the party suffering mock heart attacks, broken limbs, vertigo or mysteriously going missing — to see how the "leaders" coped. The ultimate test was: would they be calm and considerate under pressure or become aggressive and bullying when faced with a crisis?

After four hours of being



The trio check the maps before a night navigation test

lashed by driving rain and steaming in the sweat and condensation caused by my cheap plastic waterproofs, my suede walking boots began to let in water and my socks started to squelch. My second

mistake: never go mountain walking without good gear. Then it was soldier Bill's turn to lead the party. He kept his head when fireman Bernard feigned a broken leg after falling into a ditch, winning

convincingly if anyone dared to touch it. Bill pulled a survival tent from his rucksack and asked three people to get inside the tent with the "casualty" to keep him warm, while he sent a small party back to base to summon the mountain rescue team.

Six hours later we were back at the hotel for a debriefing on where we had gone wrong. "I made a complete mess of it," admitted one candidate, recalling how he had tried to put a suspected heart attack victim into a thermal bag instead of erecting the survival tent.

The bag had split, the casualty had got soaked lying in the rain and, in his panic, the acting leader had forgotten to give a map grid reference of our location to the party sent to fetch help.

"If you can learn from your mistakes, you have the makings of a leader," said Bob McFall, a tough American assessor who leads walks in the mountains of Scotland. "If all you can do is make excuses, we don't want you. It's that simple."

As we scrambled aboard a minibus with our rucksacks for the journey home, Andy Berlyn waved goodbye. "The pass rate is about 40 per cent," he said. "I'll let you know."

"I hope you all enjoyed yourselves," he added with a broad grin. Believe it or not, we had.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

There are some types of defensive play in which it appears the declarer wants you to do one thing: just to be cursed, without necessarily having worked out the full consequences. It is often right to do the other thing. Here is an example.

Dealer West Game all IMPs

AKQ3			
VK9			
Q1074			
K83			
82			
9AQ842			
AJ85			
Q			
84			
VJ1072			
K83			
AS42			

W	N	E	S
1H	Double	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Contract: 3NT by South. Lead: the five of hearts

This was a hand from the fifth round of last year's Gold Cup, between Cohen's and Nicola Smith's teams. West led a heart against 3NT, won in dummy by the nine. Now, short of entries to his hand, declarer (Dick Sheehan) tried the good shot of leading the queen of diamonds at trick two, on which East played the nine.

It should have been clear to West, after this unnatural-looking diamond play, what was going on. If South had plenty of entries, he would play small to the king, and finesse the ten on the second round. Hence West should have ducked the queen of diamonds, which would have scuppered the contract.

In the event West took the queen of diamonds with the ace and cashed the ace of

hearts, on which East discarded the jack of spades. Now if West clears hearts declarer will have to guess the club position to make his ninth trick there. However West switched to a spade, so declarer had time to set up a second diamond trick and still had two entries to hand to set up a second heart trick.

For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Philip Howard

ABASIA
a. Inability to walk
b. Arabic numeration
c. Impervious to kissing

CHOUSE
a. A bust-bodice
b. An underground grotto
c. To disturb cattle

FRAUENDIENST
a. Lechery
b. A hen party
c. Gallantry
BANDAR
a. Monkeys
b. A hair band
c. To pester

Answers on page 39

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Team chess
The indefatigable organiser, Chris Dunworth, the mastermind behind the Four Nations Chess League, has created yet another chess competition, the 4 NCL Chess and Bridge International in London. The object of the exercise is to give British players the chance to play for international master norms in formal contests.

After four rounds, the Lewis team leads, with 20.5, over the Sarratt team, who have 13.5. Sarratt and Lewis were both leading British players of the early 19th century. Two games follow from this event, which is still in progress.

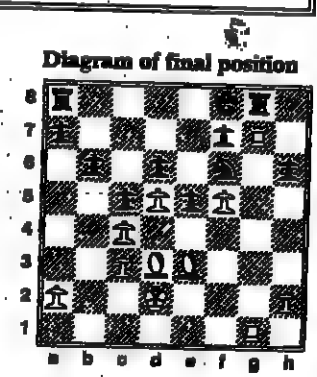
White: J Richardson
Black: D O'Kille
4 NCL Chess and Bridge International, February 1996

Nimzo-Indian Defence	
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. Bg5	b6
5. f3	c5
6. d5	Bxc3+
7. bxc3	c6
8. e4	e5
9. Bc3	Nbd7
10. Ne2	f6
11. Bb1	Nb5
12. g4	Cf6
13. gxf5	Qxf5
14. Kd2	Qxd5
15. Ng3	Qxd1+
16. Raxf1	Nf6
17. Nf5	Bd5
18. exf6	Kd7
19. Rf1	Rf8
20. Rg2	Kc7
21. Rf1	Kf8
22. Rf7	Black resigns

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Abrosimov - Ambalilis, Latvia 1975. The black king does not appear to be in any immediate danger but, with a clever line-clearing sacrifice, White proved that this was not the case. How did he continue?

Solution on page 39

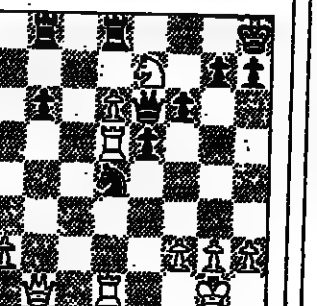


Black resigns on account of 22... Rg7 23. Bxh6 Ne8 24. f6 winning.

White: D Gormally
Black: P Num
4 NCL Chess and Bridge International, February 1996

King's Indian Defence	
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Bg7
4. f4	c6
5. f5	d5
6. Nf3	c5
7. d5	e6
8. Be2	exd5
9. ex5	Nf4
10. fxe5	Ng4
11. Bg5	h5
12. exf6	Bxf6
13. Bxd6	Nd6
14. cxd5	Bg4
15. 0-0	Nbd7
16. Ng5	Bxe2
17. Qxe2	Rf8
18. Qc4	Nb6
19. Qd4	Nbd7
20. c6	Rf5
21. Qc4+	Nc5
22. Nc5	Black resigns

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



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Supermarket giants face a challenge at the checkout

Battle to be first in the queue

Britain's food shoppers are getting harder to please. Price is no longer the sole determinant of a supermarket group's success — good service and convenience are playing increasingly critical roles.

Customers are not prepared to travel as far to a store as they did five years ago, are doing more frequent, smaller shops, and often leave their chosen supermarket dissatisfied. This is the world of food shopping, according to Harris International Marketing, a firm of consultants, which calculates that every year Britain's supermarket giants do battle for a share of about 71 million grocery shopping trips.

Five years ago, Sainsbury was the undisputed king. It boasted the highest number of customers and enticed them to part with the most cash — a winning combination that ensured its position as Britain's most profitable and largest food retailer.

But a lot can change in five years. According to HIM, Tesco has been in ascendancy for about two years and as a result, the retailer has successfully toppled Sainsbury off the "most popular" pedestal, a position it had held for 15 years.

Tesco's dominance is not expected to be short-lived. Next month, AGB, the market research company, is expected to reveal that Tesco is entering its second year in the number one slot with a market share of more than 21 per cent.

Jeff Harris, founder of HIM, calculates that more than 5 million customer households now shop at Tesco compared with less than 5 million at Sainsbury. This marks a sharp swing in fortunes from two years ago when only 3.5 million shoppers passed through Tesco's doors while more than 5 million visited Sainsbury.

Asda is another winner in the battle for customers with 50 per cent more shoppers visiting its stores than the 2 million of two years ago, compared to Sainsbury with its static customer base of three million.

The battle for shoppers is fought on many fronts. Traditionally, price was perceived as the key but attitudes have begun to shift. Increasingly, supermarket groups have been struggling to differentiate themselves from their rivals through the services they offer. With this in mind they have been employing a mass of different sales initiatives and promotions to lure customers to their stores.



Sir Ian MacLaurin, executive chairman of Tesco, has to juggle with customers' demands to keep his company on top

though a year ago, Sainsbury ridiculed the concept when Tesco launched its successful scheme. And customers are being wooed by a string of other service initiatives such as shorter queue pledges, crèches and dry cleaning. Tesco has also benefited from a planned move down market. Tesco has built its traffic partly because it has returned to its roots. Its profile has moved consistently and markedly down market — as has Sainsbury, claims Mr Harris.

Surprisingly Asda has the most upmarket profile of the lot — quashing many preconceptions that the chain is predominantly ordinary working class. Of Asda's customers, 47 per cent are ABCs, a sharp rise from the 39 per cent level in autumn 1992. Reflecting the move downmarket by Tesco and

Sainsbury, the percentage of Tesco's ABC shoppers has fallen from 42 per cent to 38 per cent while Sainsbury's has slipped from 52 per cent to 44 per cent, according to HIM.

Mr Harris believes that a customer's decision to shop at a particular store is dictated more by convenience than price. In his survey, HIM found that 79 per cent of shoppers cite convenience as a major reason for choosing a particular chain while only 25 per cent are driven by price.

The importance of price varies between the different supermarket groups. Only 14 per cent of Sainsbury's shoppers mentioned price as a draw to shop in its stores, raising doubts over the success of the group's Sainsbury Savers

scheme. In contrast, price played a key role in the where to shop decision for 27 per cent of Asda shoppers, 17 per cent of Sainsbury shoppers and 19 per cent of Tesco's.

Mr Harris argues that "shoppers are getting more demanding and less tolerant. For example the average shopper is not prepared to travel nearly as far as he or she would have done five years ago."

HIM calculates that supermarket catchment areas have shrunk sharply in the past two years as the average distance travelled to a supermarket store has fallen from 2.6 miles to 2.2 miles. An alternative interpretation is that two years ago the chains were attracting customers from 39 per cent further afield.

This means that the pressure is on the supermarket groups to attract a bigger proportion of

people from around their stores in order to just stand still. But winning customers' shopping trips is only a small part of the battle. Convincing people to part with their money once they are there is a totally different issue.

In theory this should not be too tricky a task as only 16 per cent of customers arrive at a store with a shopping list. "The fact that the majority of the population do not go to a shop with a shopping list means they are there to be swayed by the food retailers. Lists tend to act as a restraint on purchasing activity," says Mr Harris.

Tesco has the most opportunities to entice people to part with their money with an estimated 10 million visits from customers every week. "This is a significant jump from the 7 million weekly shopping trips Tesco had a year earlier," says Mr Harris.

In contrast, Sainsbury has just under 10 million weekly visits to its stores, while Asda is showing signs it may be beginning to falter as the number of visits has slipped back to about 5 million having risen to over 6 million a year ago.

The profitability of each visit varies between the groups. One measure is a store's traffic density, that is the number of trips made per square foot of space. Waitrose, turns in the best performance, while Sainsbury's shows what it is possible for Tesco to achieve.

For some food retailers, the ratio of customers to floor space has begun to slip as aggressive expansion plans have led to a sharp rise in square footage without a corresponding surge in customers. The pressure on retailers to build their customer base is simultaneously increasing. The amount each customer spends is relentless. But there is no denying that Tesco and Asda are currently the winners.

Keeping their crowns will not be easy, however, as Sainsbury and Sainsbury are working hard at regaining lost momentum. The one certainty is that giving the customer what they want is a critical factor in all the group's future successes.

Peking ready to honour pledge on Hong Kong

By JON ASHWORTH

SHANGHAI and Hong Kong are set to emerge as complementary financial centres driving the "new" China after the handover of the colony in June 1997, sources close to Peking claim.

Fears that Hong Kong will be eclipsed by fast-growing Shanghai are unfounded, according to Nellie Fong, a senior accountant close to the Peking negotiators. The Chinese Government is committed to Hong Kong and intends to honour its "one country, two systems" pledge, she said.

Mrs Fong, deputy country managing partner, China, at Arthur Andersen, is advising the Chinese Government on the transition of power. She insisted, on a visit to London where she briefed UK executives on prospects for investment in China, that Peking will make good its word.

Mrs Fong said: "China has put a lot of resources into Hong Kong, and has no reason to want to ruin it." Since 1978, when China first

opened its borders to foreign investors, more than 60 per cent of the \$60 billion inwards investment has come through Hong Kong. Some 45 per cent of all trade with China is channelled via the colony, which provides work for more than 3 million southern China residents.

Shanghai's potential as a financial centre will be restricted by China's socialist doctrines, Mrs Fong said. Hong Kong, where capitalism will be enshrined for 50 years, will remain the main entry point for foreign investors, and continue to lead southern China. Shanghai, two hours away by air, will drive China's eastern and northern regions.

Mrs Fong said Chinese companies will be expected to compete on the same basis as Western rivals. However, the sheer scale of the country poses problems for outsiders, who need to define their strategy and select a Chinese partner with common goals before pressing ahead.

CHANGE ON WEEK		
	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.14	1.98
Austria Sch	16.78	15.28
Belgium F	49.08	44.75
Canada \$	2.927	2.907
Cyprus CypL	0.752	0.697
Denmark Kr	8.28	8.48
Finland Mk	7.52	8.87
France F	33.17	7.48
Germany D	2.38	2.38
Greece Dr	367.00	366.00
Hong Kong \$	12.57	11.37
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sht	5.1900	4.5400
Italy Lit	252.00	257.00
Japan Yen	178.40	160.40
Malta	0.591	0.539
Netherlands Gld	2.981	2.431
New Zealand \$	2.48	2.21
Norway Kr	10.57	9.57
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	16.57	15.70
Spain Ptas	166.50	162.50
Sweden Kr	11.01	10.51
Switzerland F	1.35	1.77
Turkey Lira	588.00	613.00
USA \$	1.5403	1.5403

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US dollar	
1.5403 (-0.0078)	
German mark	
2.2347 (-0.0275)	
Exchange index	
83.3 (-1.0)	
Bank of England official rates (4pm)	
FT 30 share	
2760.6 (+11.7)	
FT-SE 100	
3740.3 (-30.6)	
New York Dow Jones	
5830.49 (+127.17)	
Tokyo Nikkei Ave	
20300.38 (-502.39)	

Elwood to decide on bank jobs

UK politics still threaten the market

FROM BACH TO BIRTWISTLE: YOU CAN SAVE UP TO £30 OFF THE PRICE OF A CONCERT TICKET

Take a friend to a concert for 30p

The Times offers you the chance to take a friend to some of the most exciting concerts being performed today for only 30p — the price of your favourite quality daily newspaper.

There are over 160 concerts to choose from at 25 venues in England, Scotland and Wales. You can enjoy Yehudi Menuhin conducting the Warsaw Sinfonia in Sheffield, Tadaaki Otaka performing the Mahler Symphony No 4 in Plymouth, Poole and Southampton and operatic highlights in Swansea.

You can also hear soloists of the calibre of Peter Donohoe, playing Rachmaninov in Leeds and Nottingham, Julian Lloyd Webber playing Britten in Leicester or Maria Ewing singing in Manchester.

To take advantage of our exclusive offer, all you have to do is collect four of the six concert tokens appearing in *The Times*, and attach them to an application form which will be published later this week. Today we print the second half of our listing of participating concerts. The first half of our listing, detailing concerts in London and a regional listing in alphabetical order from A-H, appeared on Saturday.

HOW TO BOOK

Choose a concert from the listing and telephone the venue to reserve your tickets quoting *The Times* offer. When you buy one ticket at the full price you will receive a second for just 30p. Your tickets cannot be issued until tokens have been received. Please do not call the concert halls before Thursday, February 29. The offer is limited to one 30p performance per household, though you may get a 30p ticket for more concerts at venues marked * if you book them at the same time.

The tokens are valid only for the performances stated in the offer and cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other offer. All tickets are subject to availability. Check with the booking office for the time your chosen concert starts.

YOUR CHOICE OF VENUE

LEEDS
Leeds Civic Hall 0115-647 6962
Pulsford Stables Great Hall 12
Sinfonia Concert No 4, Britten Concert No 1, French Quartet in D Major, 25-27.
Leeds Town Hall 0115-247 6962
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra Apr 13
Conductor Jun-ichi Hirokami, soloist Boris Berman. Beethoven Concerto No 3, Brahms Violin Concerto, Beethoven Symphonies Nos 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Yehudi Menuhin conducts the Warsaw Sinfonia in Sheffield

PLYMOUTH
Pulsford Stables 01752 229922
Beethoven Symphony No 4, Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No 1, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 1, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 2, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 3, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 4, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 5, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 6, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 7, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 8, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 9, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 10, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 11, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 12, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 13, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 14, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 15, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 16, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 17, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 18, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 19, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 20, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 21, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 22, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 23, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 24, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 25, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 26, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 27, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 28, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 29, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 30, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 31, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 32, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 33, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 34, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 35, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 36, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 37, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 38, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 39, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 40, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 41, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 42, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 43, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 44, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 45, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 46, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 47, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 48, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 49, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 50, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 51, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 52, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 53, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 54, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 55, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 56, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 57, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 58, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 59, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 60, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 61, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 62, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 63, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 64, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 65, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 66, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 67, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 68, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 69, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 70, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 71, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 72, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 73, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 74, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 75, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 76, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 77, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 78, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 79, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 80, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 81, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 82, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 83, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 84, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 85, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 86, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 87, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 88, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 89, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 90, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 91, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 92, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 93, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 94, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 95, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 96, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 97, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 98, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 99, Beethoven Piano Concerto No 100.

Mariss Jansons conducts the LPO in London

LONDON
St Marys Church 0181-634 1712
English Sinfonia Apr 13 Conductor Jack Kasparczyk, soloist Julian Lloyd Webber. Britten Cello Symphony, Mendelssohn Symphony No 5, Mar 27 Conductor Christopher Seaman, soloist Christian Lindberg. Nystrom Trombone Concerto, Brahms Symphony No 1, 25-29.50, Apr 13 Conductor Alexander

Hear tenor Rafael Rojas with the Halle Orchestra

WALSLEY
Walsley Hall 01922 474444 City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Mar 25 Conductor Osmo Vänskä, soloist Anthony Hayward. Beethoven Symphony No 6, Elgar Violin Concerto, 212.50-215.00.

30p CONCERT TOKEN 2

Ellwood to decide on bank jobs

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PETER ELLWOOD, deputy chief executive of Lloyds TSB, will this week assign top management positions to executives of the merged bank.

Mr Ellwood and six retail financial services directors have spent the past two weeks interviewing 80 senior managers for 40 posts. After Lloyds Bank's reverse takeover of TSB in December, Mr Ellwood was put in charge of integrating retail financial services. At the end of January, he appointed three Lloyds directors and three TSB directors to the top positions.

A Lloyds spokeswoman said the posts would be filled on merit. She said: "We will not be recruiting on the basis of politics."

Mr Ellwood said that, after the appointments, task forces will be set up to look at such issues as where the new sector headquarters should be, whether new information technology is needed and how to maximise distribution channels.

Tour operators act to avoid discounting summer holidays

By MARIANNE CURPHY

TOUR operators could be forced to cut an extra 600,000 packages from this year's holiday programmes to head off a wave of late summer discounts.

So far, three million Britons have booked their annual two-week overseas, 21 per cent fewer than for the same period in 1995. As a result, operators are downgrading their total sales' expectations by about 500,000, to below eight million packages this summer.

This is in spite of an expensive, and concentrated, campaign to warn consumers that if they fail to book early they could well find it impossible to travel during the peak months of June, July and August.

The big six operators — Thomson, Airtours, First Choice, Cosmos, Sunworld and Inspirations — which control 70 per cent of the market, have already cut the number of holidays on offer by 15 per cent. They said this week that further capacity cuts of between 6 and 8 per cent may still be necessary to protect margins and stimulate demand.

First Choice, the UK's third



Failure to book early could mean the loss of a sun, sea and sand package holiday

largest operator, said that bookings were 21 per cent down, although the company tried to emphasise that demand for winter bookings were up 22 per cent on last year.

The City is reserving judg-

ment on the success of the tour operators' attempts to match supply with demand until after the peak travelling months, having watched last year as three million holidays were reduced in August to shift unsold stock. One analyst

said: "Operators are chasing margins not volume this time and do seem prepared to reduce capacity. However, they are still secretly obsessed with market share and maintaining their position."

Tim Byrne, the Airtours

group finance controller, is to review sales at the end of this month, and said that any further cuts are likely to be carried out before the end of next month. "Whether we take on any more aircraft depends on the pattern of bookings over the next few weeks," he said.

Going Places, the travel agent owned by Airtours, blamed the poor bookings on consumers' belief that late bargains were still available, although it said sales were beginning now to pick up.

Holders of Airtours and First Choice shares have had a rollercoaster ride over the past 12 months.

The news that Carnival Cruise Corporation, of the United States, is to take just under 30 per cent of Airtours' share, sent Airtours' stock climbing. Shares closed at 460p on Friday, a rise of 30p since Carnival's announcement on Thursday.

Shares in First Choice have climbed slowly this month after plunging last September, when the group issued a warning that profits would be £15 million lower than in 1994.

Business Links lack quality, IoD claims

By RODNEY HOBSON

MANY Business Links, the one-stop advice centres for small and medium-sized businesses, are failing to provide a quality service, the Institute of Directors says in evidence to the Commons Select Committee inquiry into the scheme.

The right people are not being recruited for the frontline role of personal business adviser, the IoD says. IoD members emphasise the importance of advisers having solid business experience, but many do not have the right background.

Although small businesses support the concept of Business Links, they find the quality of service very mixed. The IoD says it hopes that the current problems are teething troubles.

Business Links provide firms with a single access point to a comprehensive range of local support services. The service is at the heart of the Government's drive to improve the competitiveness of British businesses and to help them to compete overseas. The first two were established in Leicester and Birmingham in 1993 and

by the end of next month there will be 240.

Each Business Link is a partnership between organisations such as training and enterprise councils, chambers of commerce, local authorities and enterprise agencies. Some have as many as 12 partners, bringing in universities, development bodies and private sector organisations.

The IoD says it has found problems with the partnerships, particularly where partners promoted their own services in competition with the Business Link. Ruth Lea, head of the IoD policy unit, says: "This is causing confusion and undermining the rationale for Business Link."

Business Links are expected to generate income by charging firms for their services. The IoD suggests it is not realistic or right for the Government to charge small companies for the use of the services, and the Business Links could well be pressured into trying to sell services that were not necessarily needed.

UK politics still threaten the market

Like many markets, gilts have recently been in the grip of the sell-off in international bonds, with domestic factors largely overshadowed. Although the direction of international bonds will clearly be important in the months ahead, it is extremely unlikely that domestic considerations will continue to take a back seat.

On the international front, the key issue is whether the rise in yields will go on. Many explanations have been put forward for why there has been a sharp setback, including the reversal of previous yen-based funding of US Treasury, hedged funds selling political fears in the US and concern that monetary policy may be being loosened too quickly. Each of these has its merits, but it is probably more a case of too much supply; the sell-off comes after heavy issuance in Germany and the US.

There has been speculation as to whether we are seeing a re-run of the US-led sell-off in 1994. We think not. The economic background now is entirely different. Previously, the US faced above-trend growth; now, it is below trend. In 1994, inflation expectations were rising; now, they are falling. Most importantly, US real short-term interest rates were raised in 1994; now, they are being cut.

Most probably, therefore, this bear phase will be short. US yields look especially out of line with the inflation background, which has not been this low for so long since the late 1960s, when long-dated yields were between 4 and 5 per cent. Most probably, these implied high yields will be seen as attractive and, with inflation likely to stay benign, both Treasury and bond yields will fall in the year ahead.

Although this will be supportive for gilts, the ultimate level of UK yields will be determined by the domestic backdrop. At face value, the long gilt yields of more than 8 per cent look impressive, against long-term inflation expectations of 2½ to 3 per cent, and might suggest real yields of 5 per cent or more. However, index-linked yields show that real yields are lower, at about 3.7 per cent. The difference represents a risk premium.

This premium reflects the

possibility of a Labour government and the likelihood that the UK will not take part in EMU. Saying how much risk premium is due to each factor is hard, but a benchmark to compare gilts against is the Danish bond market. Denmark is not too dissimilar to the UK in expected economic performance and is also not expected to participate in EMU. The Danish spread against bonds is about 125bp, compared with about 165bp for the UK; the difference of just 40bp may therefore largely represent the risk premium associated with expectations of a Labour government.

The question for gilts, therefore, is whether this political risk premium is sufficient — ie, has a Labour government been fully discounted? We think not. Witness the reaction of gilts to the threat of an early general election that came with John Major's temporary resignation as Tory leader last summer — ten-year spreads against bonds rose by 40bp, only to drop back when the imminent threat receded. This suggests that there is a time premium, associated with the election, which will grow as it nears.

If a Labour government has not been fully discounted, therefore, where should the spread against bonds be when an election is called? In the 1992 election, the spread moved to more than 200bp. It might be argued that the spread should be less next time because Labour's stated policies are less of an inflation threat. However, in the last election, opinion polls were less clear about who might win and the spread probably reflected this. Now, the polls show a clear lead for Labour, which (if maintained) would argue for a wider differential.

A spread to bonds of about 200bp is, therefore, probably a realistic level to look for ahead of the election. This is especially so given that, at £34 billion, gross gilt funding in the next financial year will be up on 1995/96 — not easy in an election year. So, although gilts may gain from a future recovery in global bonds, they are likely to underperform later in the year.

JOHN SHEPHERD AND
NIGEL RICHARDSON
Yamaichi International

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 37

ABASIA

(a) Inability to walk caused by lack of co-ordination of the muscles. From the Greek *a-* privative + *basis* step. "You are perfectly at liberty to take your regulation lunch interval, Chris. But I find your abasia afterwards rather endearing."

CHOUSE

(c) To disturb or harry (cattle). American slang, origin unknown. "The round-up boss would let one ride through the herd and chouse, or unnecessarily disturb them."

FRAUENDIENST

(c) Exaggerated chivalry towards women. From the German *frauen* women + *diens* service. "We find neither outright sexual passion nor sentimental frauendienst."

BANDAR

(a) The Rhesus Monkey, *Macaca mulatta*. Also Kipling's nation of monkeys in *Bandar-log*, from the Hindi *log* people, hence figuratively any body of irresponsible chattering. "Children, quietly please, QUIET. Never in my entire career have I met such a Bandar."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxd4! ead4 2 Qd7! Rxd7 3 Rf5 checkmate.

TODAY

BRITISH AEROSPACE PLC

FARNBOROUGH, HANTS

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Lotus

Working Together

Era comes to an end at Fiat as Agnelli quits the driving seat



Agnelli: stepping down

GIANNI AGNELLI is set to step down as chairman of Fiat this week, marking the end of an era for Italy's largest private company. At a board meeting on Wednesday, Cesare Romiti, the current chief executive, is due to be named new chairman. Signor Agnelli has held the job for 30 years. Signor Romiti will in turn be replaced as CEO by Paolo Cantarella, the head of Fiat Auto, the car division and heart of the group, which will now be run by Roberto Testori.

Sarah Cunningham on the changes under way at the top of Italy's leading private company

were then allegedly used to make payments to politicians and Fiat managers working abroad. These factors and a general market nervousness ahead of a general election in Italy on April 21 have put pressure on Fiat shares just as the company was enjoying the fruits of a remarkable turnaround.

that board members must retire at 75. The obvious successor to Signor Romiti is Signor Agnelli's nephew, Giovanni Alberto Agnelli, better known as Giovannino. He was named as successor-in-waiting in July but Signor Cantarella, 52, is now considered another possible candidate.

Analysts have started to warm to Fiat, which is involved in insurance, newspaper publishing and retailing but still principally vehicle production, since the successful launch of the small Punto, a replacement for the top-selling Uno. The firm launched its new model, the three-door Bravo and five-door Brava, in Britain last month. Fiat plans a big sales push in the UK this year, a market in which it lost ground in the eighties.



Romiti: storm ahead

Prospectus due from Orange

Orange, the mobile telephone company, which plans to float in late March, is to publish a preliminary prospectus on Wednesday. The company is expected to value Orange at about £2.7 billion and raise about £700 million for Hutchison Whampoa, of Hong Kong, and British Aerospace, its two shareholders. The funds will be used to pay off debt and expand Orange's all-digital network.

Pay floor 3%
Rises of 3 per cent are emerging as the "floor" for private sector pay deals in 1996, says Incomes Data Services. It says almost two-thirds are for rises of 3.1 to 4 per cent, with the number of deals under 3 per cent "very small". A third of deals last month gave rises of 3.9 per cent or more.

Gas criticism
Sir Denis Rooke, former chairman of British Gas, has accused ministers of taking a back seat over its £40 billion of high-cost take-or-pay contracts with North Sea producers. He told BBC's *The Money Programme*: "I believe the Government has the major responsibility for causing the difficulty."

Divorce call
The Fairshares campaign yesterday urged ministers to end uncertainty over pension rights for divorced women and to let courts split pensions at divorce.

Amber move
An electronic version of the Amber Index, which aims to identify takeover targets and potential crashes, will be available on ICA's TOPICS equity information service from March.

Bombardier decision on bid for ailing Fokker imminent

By ERIC REGULY

BOMBARDIER, the Canadian aircraft-maker that owns Short Brothers of Northern Ireland, is expected to reveal as early as tomorrow whether it will bid for Fokker, the ailing Dutch aerospace concern.

Roy McNulty, Short's president, is scheduled to speak about Bombardier's latest business activities, including its interest in Fokker and its role in making components for Global Express. Bombardier's new long-range business jet, at a press conference in Belfast that day.

Fokker said last week that Bombardier and Samsung of Japan, which is also considering a bid for Fokker, would make their intentions known within a few days.

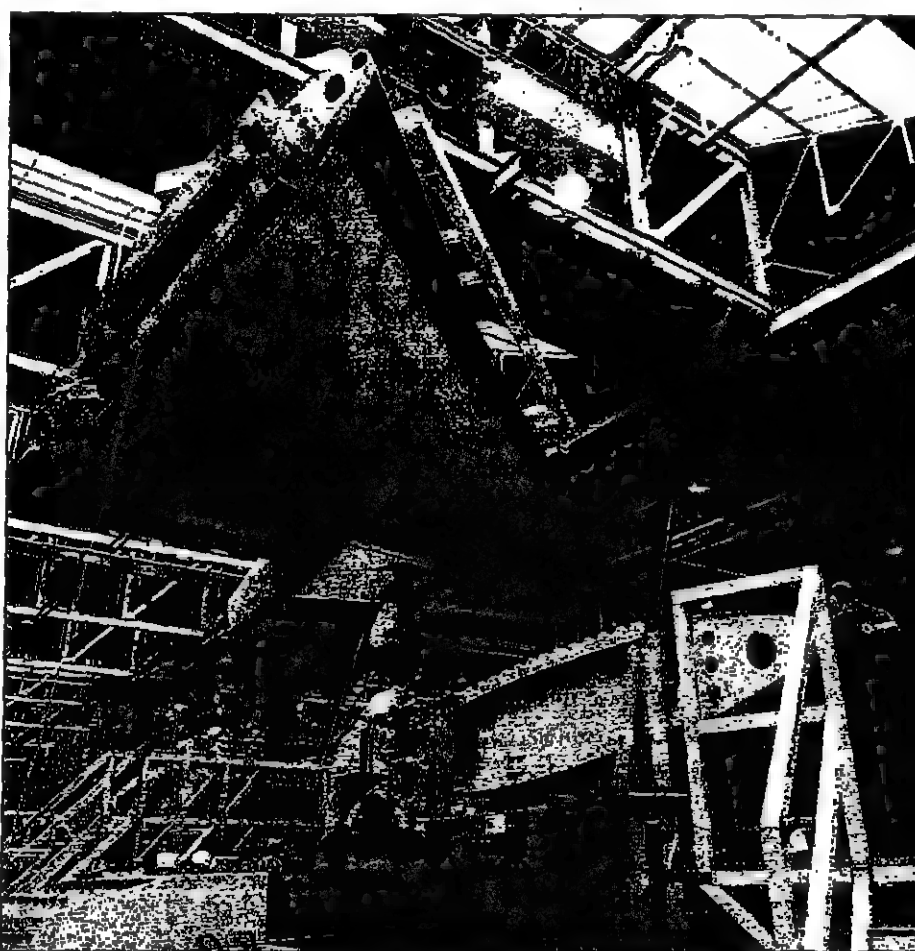
Fokker has been looking for a buyer since Daimler-Benz of Germany, the majority owner, withdrew its financial support last month. Fokker, with debts of \$1.8 billion, is now under court protection from its creditors, and the Dutch Government gave it a £125 million lifeline to keep its operations going at the factory based at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

wings for the Fokker 100 passenger jet, and will do the same for the proposed Fokker 70, a smaller version of the 100.

Shorts said that Fokker accounts for more than 20 per cent of its business. If Fokker goes bankrupt, formally and production ceases, up to 1,500 jobs in Belfast would be at risk.

Bombardier also wants to extend its range of regional aircraft. Its portfolio includes the De Havilland Dash 8 turboprop and the RJ50 jet. It intends to introduce a stretched version of the latter, called the RJ70, by 2000.

If Bombardier buys Fokker, it appears unlikely that both the Fokker 70 and the RJ70 would go ahead. But production of the Fokker 100, or its successor, would seem secure under Bombardier ownership.



Wing and a prayer: work on the Fokker 100 in progress at Shorts in Belfast

UK employees reap benefits of works councils

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH employees in companies which have ignored the Government's social chapter opt-out and set-up European-style works councils are already better informed, according to the first survey today of the operation of such bodies in British business.

The Government maintains that there is no need for most UK companies to set up European works councils (EWCs) following the opt-out from the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty negotiated by John Major.

Increasingly, however, companies in the UK are setting up EWCs, usually to keep their British subsidiaries in line with operations in the rest of Europe. UK employers' bodies are adopting a more pragmatic approach to EWCs, advising companies on how to introduce them, rather than attempting to oppose them.

The survey reveals that companies' strategies and markets were the key areas covered by EWCs, with 79 per cent of those surveyed reporting that such issues are discussed. Company products were high on the agenda (76 per cent), with financial results and investment accounting for 72 per cent. Pay is discussed by only 14 per cent. Financial results took up the most time. Half of those surveyed believe that EWCs should go further and embrace issues such as redundancies and staffing concerns. Significantly, a growing number of EWCs, even in unionised companies, are representing non-union as well as union workers. John Monks, TUC General Secretary, says the study shows "modern trade unions effectively representing workers, and interested in the success of their companies". He added: "This is fresh evidence revealing just how out of touch the Government is with business needs and workers' interests."

CD-Rom specialist takes aim

By PHILIP PANGALOS

FIRST Information Group (FIG), an independent multimedia production company specialising in CD-Roms for the consumer market, is planning to float on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM) and is expected to be capitalised at between £35 million and £40 million when it starts trading next month.

After the acquisition, the new management team expanded the company's multimedia activities into the production and distribution of its own titles under the

FlagTower brand. The first four titles, including *World War I*, *World War II*, *War in the Pacific* and *The Space Race*, were launched last October. FIG plans to raise £7 million through a placing. The proceeds will be used to reduce debt and fund the development and production of further titles. After the float, FIG will retain some £5 million of cash.

AIM report page 40

CMG ready to unveil deal with Esso UK

By PHILIP PANGALOS

CMG, the information technology services and consultancy group that recently floated on the London and Amsterdam stock markets, is today expected to announce that it has signed an outsourcing agreement with Esso UK, expected to be worth at least £15 million over five years.

Under the agreement, CMG, which is chaired by Cor Stutterheim, will carry out the overall project management of Esso's information technology programme in the UK over the next five years.

CMG will assume the responsibility for selecting other suppliers to provide complementary or additional skills as necessary, and for ensuring that projects are delivered on time and within budgets.

The agreement is a further development of CMG's declared strategy in the UK of developing long-term contracts with leading companies and organisations in its key business sectors.

CMG employs a workforce of 2,600 in the UK, The Netherlands and Germany. The group's blue chip clients include Shell, British Gas, BP, Unilever, KLM, Abbey National, Legal & General, Schroders, Hambros and the Department of Trade and Industry.

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Better tunes...
in the piano

Hints but no stunts from lumpy lady Lecter

Pauline Quirke, with no make-up and a very bad haircut, leans forward over a prison table and breathes loudly through her nose. You loved your husband once, she tells her surprised visitor. "You can't hate what you've never loved."

This was the *Scalptress* last night on BBC1, a strange, sustained exercise in Gothic horror that will perhaps acquire itself with a satisfactory resolution next weekend. However, after its first two parts, shown on Saturday and Sunday, only a mild sense of curiosity is what the viewer takes away. Given that Pauline Quirke has gone to all the trouble of revealing her acting talents — and wearing a hideous bodysuit — this seems a bit of a shame.

Five years ago, somebody murdered two women — Quirke's mother and sister. Quirke cut up the bodies. Now, a rather posh writer, Caroline Goodall, is writing a book about her. Goodall has her own problems, not least of which are a really awful coat and a close resemblance to Janet McTeer (though she is better than McTeer at those funny blank stares, signifying alarm — McTeer always looks as if she's swallowed an orange). Anyway, the two women meet weekly in an improbably dark, scary room, and Quirke wrings her face, and basically it's Hannibal Lecter without the physical danger. Weighing 23 stone — with breasts at her stomach and stomach at her knees — Quirke is unlikely to make any lightning movements or hide sharpish on top of a life.

Anyone watching *The Scalptress* for an interesting programme about Elizabeth Frink must have been badly disappointed. But there were some good effects, some good acting and some surprises in the script. Christopher Purdell seems to have made a full professional

recovery from his misjudged Napoleon in *Scarlet and Black* (hilarious), and here plays a retired detective with a restaurant, à la *Pie in the Sky*. Personally, I loved the way our lady writer got her book deal. Her publisher noticed that she needed the money, so offered her a project. "I want it on my desk in three months," said the boss, and named a fancy sum. Wow. It must be great being a writer. Goodall also has a fancy flat with a turret, a fancy car and great jewellery. And she hasn't even started writing yet.

I mentioned Quirke's "You can't hate what you've never loved" because it was rather the theme of Simon Nye's *True Love* on ITV last night. A hilarious and energetic 60-minute film, written by chap whose simple trick is to make sure every character gets funny lines, this was a real treat. Donna (Emma Wray) is a nurse,

like Dorothy in *Men Behaving Badly*. She has thrown out her never-do-well husband Phil (Philip Glenister) for sleeping with another woman — on, as she puts it, a "handbag". Phil is a big kid with slovenly habits, who regards his LPs as old mates. Their two children are noisy and well loved. And now Donna has met handsome gentleman farmer James



Lynne Truss

(Douglas) Hyde, who subtly breaks the Nye rule by being nice but not especially funny.

Emma Wray was great as Donna — lively and quick. Showing her little smouldering for the first time, Hodge announced proudly "It still makes me weep sometimes", to which she replied "Oh, it's not so bad". But the star of the film was undoubtedly the bashed-up, selfish comedian Philip Glenister, turning up with a peace offering of Twilets ("Big bag?"), reading stories to the children in front of *Coronation Street*. The best pop songs on the soundtrack were reserved for Phil. "I don't know what to wish for," said seven-year-old Shirley on her birthday. "Why don't you wish for Elvis to be alive?" he piped.

Donna enjoyed rejecting Phil, enjoying encouraging James. "We've got a history!" Phil pleaded. "So has syphilis," she pointed out. "He won't make you laugh,"

which was encouraging, since his own production company (Watchmaker) had made the show.

Ballykissangel (BBC1) is still the best Sunday-night confection in a long while, though its title music is too dismissively dilly-dilly. Particularly impressive, and surprising, is its penchant for spectacular accidents. In the first week a mountainous, narrowly missing a bus. Last night a piece of symbolic masonry fell off the church and nearly hit Ambrose, the skinny policeman. This bizarre mishap, involving a goat, a rope, a sandwich and a mouse, was a lot more believable than the ridiculous pile-up in *Casualty* on Saturday.

I meant to write here about the Men's Health series, but have run out of space. So quickly, the upbeat message from Why Men Die Younger (BBC2) was this: castration is not a bad option. I only hope this is helpful.

REVIEW

BBC Design Awards 1996

The ten years since the BBC launched its annual design competition provide a chance to look back as well as forwards, to assess recent trends in design as a trailer for this year's contest which will be screened in June and July. The task is performed by those who will be the three judging panels. The architect Sir Nicholas Hensley is known to cricket fans for the Mound Stand at Lord's and to opera buffs for the new house at Glyndebourne. But he is also interested in buildings developed in collaboration with the community. The programme looks at one of his projects, the Huddersfield stadium, which he has designed in collaboration with the town's residents. The other two panels are headed by Sir John Madge, the Kenwood Chef, while the graphic designer Mary Lewis casts a professional eye over the pumps at her local petrol station.

Horizon: Assault on the Male

Deborah Cadbury updates her prize-winning film of 1993 with new evidence of declining fertility in the male species. A planet where man and animal can no longer reproduce is still, happily, the stuff of science fiction. But Cadbury demonstrates that there is a growing body of scientific research to suggest that the prospect is not entirely fanciful. The first signs of what turned into an alarming trend came from the animal kingdom. The reproductive organs of tigers and alligators were becoming mysteriously smaller, and the same thing was happening to fish, birds and large mammals. Work by scientists in Europe established links with the fertility of man. There is less agreement on the cause, though the expert finger points at exposure to domestic and industrial chemicals.

Kavanagh QC: True Commitment

John Thew polishes his northern vowels, quarts off his wig and gown and returns as the bluff Manchester barrister. The first series of *Kavanagh QC* was dominated by big, juicy trials with a twist, a wicked car crash in the ball. The subplot, mainly concerning Kavanagh's home life, were underwritten and forgettable. But there are signs that the balance is changing. *Kavanagh* still has his big case, tonight accused of killing a 20-year-old student. But there seems to be an attempt to keep the supporting dramas. One of these is the silly but enjoyable humiliation of pompous barrister Jeremy (Nicholas Jones) by a female *jaan*. The other involves Kavanagh by a domestic dispute as his student daughter falls for a married man. And, yes, the court case has a surprising sequel.

Classic Ships: Rough Trade

The latest excursion into maritime nostalgia recalls the days when cargo ships were powered by wind and sail and the British merchant fleet was the biggest in the world. The most evocative footage comes from the heyday of the Port of London when, as an old seaman says, you could more or less walk across the Thames on the merchant ships waiting either to unload or to pick up cargo. There is also fond recollection of the baggy crew that patrolled the 4,000 miles of the British coast, and the motorways came and the canals were retired to leisure and heritage. Among the preserved vessels featured is the *Vict* 56, built to service naval ships in the Second World War. It is notable as one of the last British steamships, a return to the reliable coal-based technology of the Victorian era.

Peter Waymark

As HTV WEST except:

6.10pm-5.40pm Ready Money (BBC93978)
6.25-7.00pm Wales Tonight (357930)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.25-12.30 My Story (5468626)
12.55 Coronation Street (3770133)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (54178607)
1.55 Home and Away (17214848)
2.25 The West at Work. Magazine series focusing on business and industry in the West Country (5736249)
2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (2476666)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5883978)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (18572)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3770133)
1.25 Chain Letters (54178607)
1.55 A Country Practice (2476666)
2.25-3.20 Blue Healers (1678978)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5833978)
6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (387930)
12.20pm Profile (3172391)
12.40 Football Extra (5482517)
1.25 Bushell on the Box (794089)
1.55 Customs Classified (3800331)
2.40 Film: The Master Plan (1954, b/w). Espionage drama starring Norman Wooland, Wayne Morris and Tilda Thamar. Directed by Hugh Fisher (5781195)
4.00 Jobfinder (104263)
5.20 Asian Eye (168350)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (3770133)
1.25 Home and Away (34719607)
1.55 A Country Practice (17214848)
2.25-3.20 Blue Healers (5820317)
5.10 Home and Away (5883978)
5.27-5.40 Three Minutes - the Listings (544688)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (715)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (317)
5.00pm Friescreen (76244)

S4C

Starts: 6.30 Think Tank (555201) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (43355) 9.00 Fifteen to One (50589) 9.30 Schools: Geography (9226143) 9.45 Friescreen (4276648) 10.00 Sang Di Fang (584201) 10.10 The English Programme (5487704) 10.15 Encyclopaedia Galactica (305659) 11.15 The Mix (755638) 11.30 Penaford (123539) 11.45 Right to Reply (35292) 12.30pm Camberwick Green (31423) 1.00 Slot Meltdown (471097) 1.35 Film: The Flame (3528775) 3.30 Wired World (423) 4.00 Backdate (930) 4.30 Gardens Without Borders (442) 5.00 Pump: Round a Round (555201) 5.15 Pump: Fie! (167238) 5.25 Pumps: Touchdown (371881) 5.30 Countdown (794) 6.00 Newyddion (58697) 6.15 Heno (58274) 7.00 Pobl Y Cwm (41005) 7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar (585268) 8.00 Hafod Henri (3881) 8.30 Newyddion (968) 9.00 Auf Wiedersehen Pat (1997) 10.00 The Yarn (117762) 11.05 Roseanne (581713) 11.25 NYPD (581) 12.30am-1.00 Seaside (7738) 4.00 Ysgellon (58688)

BRITV

4.00pm Ruth Martin (119249) 4.30 Lifford (119133) 5.00 Treasure Hunters (117144) 5.30 Tena A (103713) 6.00 Ruffing from Everest (110026) 6.30 Beyond 200 (167775) 7.00 Arthur C. Clarke (110032) 8.00 Invention (117762) 8.30 Weather 8.00 On the Road Again (167897) 8.30 Classic Wheels (167898) 11.00-11.20 Custer's Last Stand (167842)

BRITV

12.00 Film: Man Bait (4768249) 1.15pm Ruth Martin (119249) 2.00 The Souths (115222) 2.30 Get Some! (117762) 3.00 The Virgin (117762) 3.30 The Virgin (117762) 4.00 The Virgin (117762) 4.30 The Virgin (117762) 5.00 The Virgin (117762) 5.30 The Virgin (117762) 6.00 The Virgin (117762) 6.30 The Virgin (117762) 7.00 The Virgin (117762) 7.30 The Virgin (117762) 8.00 The Virgin (117762) 8.30 The Virgin (117762) 9.00 The Virgin (117762) 9.30 The Virgin (117762) 10.00 The Virgin (117762) 10.30 The Virgin (117762) 11.00 The Virgin (117762) 11.30 The Virgin (117762) 12.00 The Virgin (117762)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Benson (597) 7.30 Family Ties (423) 8.00 Entertainment Tonight (4317) 8.30 Wings (512) 9.00 Star Trek: Voyager (512) 9.30 Star Trek: Voyager (512) 10.00 Star Trek: Voyager (512) 10.30 Star Trek: Voyager (512) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (512) 11.30 Star Trek: Voyager (512) 12.00 Star Trek: Voyager (512)

NICKELODEON

6.00pm Harry's Car (922258) 6.15 Sue

8.00am Open University: Learning for All

(Caeff) (2478065) 8.25 Using Television (Caeff) (1002171)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (5899794)

7.30 Singing (Caeff) (31510) 8.00 Blue Peter (Caeff) (51597) 8.30 Songs of Praise (Caeff) (1672626)

9.05 Daytime on Two: Christianity (4577220)

9.25 Feasts (158775) 9.40 Square (Caeff) (522572) 10.25 Hotch Potch (Caeff) (5972220) 10.45 Look and Read (Caeff) (7817591) 11.05 Zip Zap (Caeff) (7550355) 11.40 English Time (Caeff) (1276807) 12.00 History File (Caeff) (1276807) 12.30pm WorldatLunch (45355) 1.00 History (Caeff) (2257640) 1.20 Landmarks (Caeff) (2259525) 1.40 Storyline (Caeff) (34822317)

2.00 Poddington Peas (Caeff) (10415423)

2.05 Open a Door (10414764)

2.10 The Natural World (5647084)

3.00 News (Caeff) and weather (2462249)

3.05 Westminster. Live coverage of the debate on the Scott report (253220)

4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (Caeff) (585) 5.00 Esther (Caeff) (9201)

5.30 Today's Day. History quiz hosted by Marilyn Lewis (526)

6.00 Space Predictions: Deathwatch. In the first of a two-part story, disaster strikes the planet Aior when a meteor explodes directly overhead. (Caeff) (585246)

6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (Caeff) (232268)

7.30 BBC Design Awards 1996, hosted by Miranda Sawyer (775)

8.00 Horizon: Assault on the Male (Caeff) (451959)

8.50 The Male Survival Guide. James Baker explains the mysteries of the prostate, and what to look out for when it starts to go wrong (Caeff) (508248)

9.00 Our Friends in the North. The year is 1984 and the miners are out on strike, forcing Mary and Tosker to confront their policeman son on the picket lines. With Daniel Craig, Christopher Eccleston and Gina McKee (Caeff) (5022217)

10.10 The Travel Show: Essential Guides. The apes of Budapest and the backwaters of Kerala in India (Caeff) (50). Followed by Women on Men (302125)

10.30 Newsnight (Caeff) (217533)

11.15 Forever Young — HRT for Men. How testosterone can help men through their mid-life crises (Caeff) (5)

11.45 Holiday Outings. Exploring Australia's Northern Territories (Caeff) (534888)

11.55 Weatherview (426264)

12.00 Midnight Hour (Caeff) (26053)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

With Stewards (1996) (74973) 3.10-4.10 Newsnight (Caeff) (571795)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

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BARING UP 42

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BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 26 1996

POPULIST PAT 42

GRAHAM SEARJEANT
ON AN AMERICAN
MESSAGE OF DESPAIR

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Price Waterhouse action against Abu Dhabi over BCCI

By PATRICIA TEHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

PRICE WATERHOUSE, the City accountant, has secretly launched a multibillion-dollar action against the Abu Dhabi authorities in connection with the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in July 1991.

Price Waterhouse, BCCI's principal auditor, sought High Court approval last year to bring proceedings against the Abu Dhabi authorities, who were the majority shareholders in the failed bank.

Approval was required because the Abu Dhabi authorities are outside the jurisdiction of the English court. A series of documents have been filed with the Chancery division of the High Court, most recently last autumn.

Price Waterhouse's action is a third party notice, enjoining the Abu Dhabi in a \$3 billion claim against the accountant by Deloitte & Touche, BCCI's liquidators. Price Waterhouse refused to comment on the Abu Dhabi claim. The Abu Dhabi was also unavailable for comment yesterday.

In the action brought by Deloitte & Touche in March 1992, Price Waterhouse is alleged to have failed to detect or report financial irregularities at the bank. Deloitte's action also includes a lesser claim against Ernst & Whinney, now Ernst & Young, which also once audited aspects of BCCI.

Deloitte & Touche initially sought a claim against the audit firms for BCCI's entire net deficit — of up to \$11 billion — for alleged failure to detect or report financial irregularities dating back as far as 1977. Last year, this claim was

scaled down to between \$3 billion and \$4 billion. The two firms are defending the claims vigorously.

The timing of the Price Waterhouse action against the Abu Dhabi is sensitive in view of the fact that the majority shareholders are due to hand over the bulk of a \$1.8 billion compensation deal to the liquidators in April or May, enabling them to make a first payment to BCCI creditors in May or June.

The Abu Dhabi has always claimed that their portfolio funds of at least \$2.2 billion were used to prop up BCCI's fraudulent activities over nine years and they are, therefore, one of the bank's largest creditors. However, under the compensation agreement negotiated by the liquidators, the Abu Dhabi have agreed to waive their claims over the \$2.2 billion. They remain creditors in respect of deposits held at the bank on behalf of Abu Dhabi parties.

The \$1.8 billion agreement was approved by the Luxembourg court last December, and an estimated 100,000 creditors worldwide, 35,000 of them in the UK, are expected to receive a payment of at

least 20p in the pound by May or June, just before the fifth anniversary of the collapse.

BCCI was shut down by banking regulators, co-ordinated by the Bank of England, in July 1991 after the discovery of massive fraud. Last December, the liquidators reported that the \$14 billion liabilities at the time of the collapse had been reduced to \$10 billion. Net recoveries of \$3.3 billion had been made since 1991. Deloitte & Touche are planning to release some \$2 billion, including the funds from the compensation deal, to creditors,

retaining the rest to fund lawsuits against third parties. These include Price Waterhouse, Ernst & Young and the Bank of England.

A United Arab Emirates appeals court yesterday adjourned the trial of several BCCI defendants until March 13 after it asked for the return of Mohammed Swaleh Nagvi, the former chief executive, from the US. The judge asked the prosecution and the defence to attempt to bring back Mr Nagvi, who was sentenced to 14 years in prison after he was extradited to the US in May 1994.

Bid protection Bill under fire from societies

By ROBERT MILLER

NEW rules to give Britain's building societies better protection against hostile takeover bids are to be laid before Parliament within the next two weeks, but building society chiefs who want to retain mutual status argue that the new legislation does not go far enough.

Angela Knight, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday that the new Building Societies Bill will give societies much greater freedom to extend their business operations without being forced to become stock market companies. They will be allowed to branch out into general household and motor insurance, and make loans to a far wider range of businesses.

Mrs Knight said that societies should be free to consider the best interests of the mutual organisation and its members, to whom the society ultimately belongs, "without having to be forced in one direction or another. We want to get rid of any duck shoots on societies."

The proposed legislation comes hard on the heels of last week's disclosure by Nationwide that it intends to give away half its annual £400 million profits to around 7 million borrowers and savers

via lower home loan rates and higher returns on deposits. The Britannia, Bradford & Bingley and Yorkshire have also expressed their intention to remain as mutuals through similar schemes.

Brian Davis, chief executive of Nationwide, the UK's second largest society, said that the move underlined the benefits to members of remaining a bank: "If Nationwide were a public limited company we would not be doing this."

Adrian Coles, director-general of the Building Societies Association (BSA), said the new Bill did not go far enough to protect its members from potentially hostile bids. These could come from a variety of financial institutions, including banks, which have expressed interest in acquiring a building society.

The only "sure" way to make building societies less vulnerable to predators was for "the Government to take steps to limit the risk of a so-called hostile bid," he said. "It should apply the two-year rule properly and only members of two years standing should be able to benefit in a takeover or merger situation."

The two-year rule in the

1986 Building Societies Act states that only qualifying members of two years standing or more with a particular society can qualify for a cash bonus when a society becomes a public company.

This rule has been tested in court by societies who devised an alternative way of rewarding members, regardless of the two-year rule. These include the Abbey National, the Cheltenham & Gloucester, acquired by Lloyds Bank, and the Halifax and Leeds.

To overcome the two-year cash bonus rule these societies, and the Woolwich, have offered windfall bonuses worth between £900 and £1,000 on average — by way of free shares rather than cash.

John Wrigglesworth, head of strategy at the Bradford & Bingley, said: "We estimate that £50 million has been spent in legal fees by various societies on interpreting the two-year rule. We want the Government to ensure the long-term health of building societies by making sure this rule is properly enforced."

He added: "Selling out mutual status just because someone is offered £500 or whatever is not the way to decide a building society's future. That is for long-standing members who have been loyal to the society, and not just the carpetbaggers."



Angela Knight, who is preparing legislation to end "duck shoots on building societies"

Business faces extra £500m bill on pensions

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITISH business is protesting to the Government that the costs to employers to changes in pension law are "substantially" higher than ministers estimated — and is pressing the Government to change its proposals to ease the burden on companies.

Leaders of the Confederation of British Industry have privately told ministers that the cost to employers of changes arising out of the 1995 Pensions Act could be in excess of the £300 million originally envisaged by the Government — perhaps as much as £500 million. They believe such high costs will hit jobs.

Legal changes arising out of the Act, aimed at giving greater protection to employees after high-profile cases such as that involving the Mirror Group, will require the establishment of a minimum funding requirement (MFR) of pension schemes. While employers accept that proper funding of schemes is "essential", they are concerned that a balance should be struck between the imposition of "excessive" costs on employers and "unacceptable" levels of risk for pension scheme members.

In an unpublished letter to Oliver Heald, the Social Security Minister, the CBI says it is "concerned that such a balance has not yet been struck in your latest proposals". Draft regulations on the MFR circulated by the DSS are currently being considered by business.

Drawing on an analysis prepared for the CBI by Alexander Clay, the actuarial consultancy, the CBI informs the

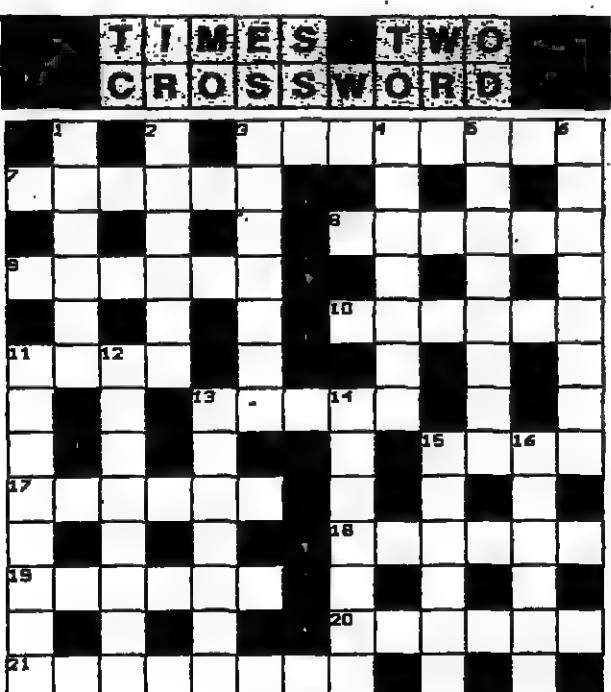
Government that "the cost of the MFR, allowing for the recent changes, could be well over half a billion pounds per annum".

John Cridland, the CBI's human resources policy director, says that this is considerably in excess of the £300 million to £400 million envisaged by Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary.

A confidential CBI document says that the "fundamental problem" of the MFR is that it "does not reflect the funding and investment strategies of the majority of UK pension schemes". While employers accept that a MFR will lead to an increase in costs, the CBI's paper argues that under the Act, schemes will have to switch from potentially high return, albeit more volatile, equity investments to lower return gilt-edged stocks. Funding will have to be increased to ensure a "high contingency reserve or surplus".

According to the CBI, most pension schemes invest about 80 per cent of their assets in equities "because they have historically outperformed gilt-edged securities and are expected to do so in the future". The CBI adds that the Government's proposals are "unacceptably conservative — a factor that adds unnecessarily to employers' costs".

Business leaders are calling on the Government to revise upwards its estimates on equity returns and are seeking talks with ministers on what they see as the "political issue" of setting the parameters of the planned MFR.



No 714

ACROSS

- 3 Hopeless investment (4,4)
7 Go without food (6)
8 Signal fire (6)
9 Show bafflement (6)
10 Trouble; harass (6)
11 (Make a) joke (4)
13 (Kent) wooded country; sounds like *brandish* (5)
15 Diary of — Frank (4)
17 Essential quality (6)
18 Avoid (6)
19 (Bill) not settled (6)
20 Without difficulty (6)
21 Learned, cultivated people (8)

DOWN

- 1 Straight man; puppet (6)
2 Properly (6)
3 Be worth (7)
4 Stubborn reactionary (7)
5 Bring about; an event (8)
6 A few words; court decision (8)
11 England personified (4,4)
12 Affection (one has for person) (4,4)
13 Fighter (7)
14 Rhine siren (7)
15 Solicit (6)
16 Sewing instrument; rivalry (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 713

- ACROSS: 1 Dwarf 4 Lasagne 8 Continuum 9 Ugh 10 Yes
11 Nightclub 12 Frail 13 Ingot 16 Strumming 18 Alb
20 Orb 21 Thrilling 22 Notched 23 Ellis
DOWN: 1 Decay 2 Amnesia 3 Friendly match 4 Lounge
5 Something else 6 Gruel 7 Exhibit 12 Pestoon 14 Glacial
15 Nimrod 17 Robot 19 Bogus

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Levi Strauss boss goes for a tighter outfit

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

LEVI STRAUSS, the world's largest clothing manufacturer and maker of the famous 501 jeans, is poised to announce one of the largest leveraged buyouts in recent years that will turn members of the Haas family, which controls the company, into some of America's richest individuals.

Robert Haas, who has run the San Francisco-based combine for 12 years, and several close relatives, will spend about \$4.6 billion to buy back shares they do not already own. The scheme values the company at close on \$14 billion. Under the terms of the deal, Mr Haas will be allowed to buy \$70 million worth of shares for less than \$250,000. When the buyout is complete he will be worth more than \$1 billion.

While the company advertised its jeans in 1900 as being "for men who toil", the image has changed over the past 20 years in the wake of international expansion and the creation of the jeans as a fashion brand. About half of Levi's

profits come from overseas. Since 1985, total sales have gone from \$2.6 billion to \$7 billion, while profits, which hit \$700 million in 1995, have broken records for each of the



The image of Levi jeans has changed dramatically

past five years. The aim of the buyout is to concentrate ownership within one part of the Haas family, direct descendants of Levi Strauss, the Bavarian immigrant who founded the company 145 years ago.

Over the years, ownership has become dispersed between about 200 family members. The buyout will concentrate 75 per cent of the shares with Mr Haas, his uncle and two cousins. It is the second phase of a process that started in 1985 when an earlier buyout led by Mr Haas bought shares back from the public.

The move has caused a row within the family because Rhoda Goldman, Mr Haas's aunt, with a 12.4 per cent stake, claimed that the \$265 per share offer price was not enough. Since her death, recently, it is not clear what action her family will take.

However, even if they do not accept, Mr Haas is set to gain control under the terms of the deal.

'No big losses' for Soros fund

By ROBERT MILLER

SOURCES close to Quantum Fund, the investment enterprise led by George Soros, the financial speculator, denied reports yesterday that the enterprise faces substantial losses on Wall Street.

Mr Soros, who made \$1 billion when he bet against sterling in the currency crisis of 1992, was said to be facing losses on a similar scale as a result of long positions taken in the bond market. Sources that declined to be identified yesterday emphasised that the

fund was "practically flat so far this year".

Hungarian-born Mr Soros, 62, was rumoured to have correctly anticipated a fall in US interest rates. He is also reputed to have gambled on a rise in the dollar against the yen, accompanied by a rise in bond prices. However, bond prices have fallen sharply.

Speculation over Quantum's potential losses in the US bond market has prompted nervous selling of the fund's shares, which have

collapsed by almost 40 per cent in a matter of weeks. At the start of February, shares in the fund stood at \$33.09. On Friday they closed at \$20.74, a drop in value over the month of \$12.35.

Mr Soros suffered a serious reverse in the financial markets two years ago.

On St Valentine's Day 1994, Quantum admitted to losing \$600 million after an unsuccessful bet that the dollar would strengthen against the yen.

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Clinton dilemma after Cuba shoots down two aircraft

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S top defence and foreign policy advisers gathered at the White House yesterday to try to determine if two Cessnas flown by four anti-Castro exiles had deliberately ventured into Cuba's air space before they were shot down by two Cuban MiGs on Saturday.

Cuba admitted the attack, which, it said, lasted seven minutes, but added that it took place only five to eight miles from its coast, well within Cuban air space. But Brothers to the Rescue, which organised the flight, insisted that the Cessnas were on a routine humanitarian mission well outside Cuba's 12-mile limit.

Cuban exiles demanded a swift and harsh response from Mr Clinton, and Pat Buchanan, whose Republican presidential campaign is on a roll, said President Castro of Cuba should be warned that his entire air force could wind up at the bottom of the Florida Straits if he continued to shoot down civilian aircraft.

Washington officials confirmed that the Cessnas apparently ignored a US warning not to fly south of the 24th parallel, which lies more than 40 miles beyond Cuba's 12-mile territorial waters. US officials also conceded that the two Cessnas were in recent months been heading the Cuban authorities by flying into their air space. On one occasion, the Cessnas dropped anti-Castro leaflets along the length of Havana beach.

Mike McCurry, the White House spokesman, said the Cuban and American Governments had repeatedly warned the pilots about their provocative tactics. Before taking off from Miami, the Cessnas had filed flight plans that did not mention Cuba as a destination. Had they done so, they would have been prevented from leaving.

If the Cessnas were in fact in the wrong, and had intruded into Cuban air space, Mr Clinton's options might normally be limited to stern repetitions of his condemnation of the action. But, with the Florida primary a little over

two weeks away and Republicans and Cuban-Americans baying for action, he may feel it necessary to do more than merely protest.

One non-military option open to him would be to take another look at a Bill in Congress that would tighten the US embargo of Cuba by extending US economic sanctions to foreign corporations doing business in Cuba.

The Bill has provoked diplomatic protests from Britain and other nations where companies would suffer. Until now, Mr Clinton has been unenthusiastic. Guided by conservative Republicans, the Bill has passed both houses of Congress and now awaits agreement on a final version. His opponents could push forward with the Bill in the coming days and put Mr

Witnesses on cruise ship

Miami: Passengers on a cruise ship that sailed by the scene of the Cuban air attack said the small private planes were instantly blown apart in the incident, Miami television WSVN-TV reported.

Passengers on the *Majesty of the Sea* cruise liner returned to the port of Miami yesterday morning and said they were horrified by what they saw. "A missile hit the aircraft and just blew it to pieces. There was hardly any wreckage, just debris, just foam and it was gone in a puff of smoke," one unidentified passenger said. Another passenger told the television station: "They just appeared out of nowhere and shot."

Video film taken by one unidentified passenger on the ship, which was sailing more than 20 miles off the coast of Cuba, showed clouds of black smoke on the horizon. The pictures were taken with a long lens and no details could be made out. (Reuters)

Republican rivals ride to showdown in badlands of Arizona



Pat Buchanan speaks from the steps of the courthouse in Prescott, Arizona, during a rally of Republican supporters

Border town fails to rally behind Buchanan's immigration banner

FROM TOM RHODES IN NOGALES ON THE US-MEXICAN BORDER

SOUTH of Tucson, where the western Sierra Madre picks up the rugged end of the Rocky Mountains, lies the dilapidated border town of Nogales and the possible key to Pat Buchanan's success in Arizona.

The town, whose sprawl of cheap boutiques and depressing motels straddles the Nogales Pass leading to Mexico, has become one of the foremost channels for illegal immigrants entering America and a target for the Republican presidential candidate.

During a drive to win Arizona's primary tomorrow on a message of protectionism, Mr Buchanan has rarely missed a chance to name Nogales as the root of all evil, a staging post for the shipment of cocaine and illegal aliens to America—a symbol not merely for the poisoning of teenagers, but also for wasted welfare payments.

When the Buchanan roadshow arrived in the conserva-

tive stronghold of Prescott, five hours' drive from the border and 60 miles south of the Grand Canyon, the firebrand commentator quickly warned to his theme. He criticised the failures of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the Mexican "bailout" by the Clin-

ton Administration and, of course, the iniquity of illegal immigration.

"No one has the right, because they've got a lousy Government down there, to walk across the borders of the United States of America with impunity," said Mr Buchanan, sporting a cowboy's black Stetson which has become his trademark in Arizona. "We've

been told illegal immigration is soaring... go down to Nogales and see for yourself."

This, apparently, is a visit he has never been prepared to make himself. Invited many times, Mr Buchanan has neither replied nor been willing, it seems, to confront its largely

Mexican population. "We've telephoned his office and sent dozens of faxes over the last nine months inviting him to come," said Brendan FitzSimons, publisher of the *Nogales International* newspaper. "He's never coming here. He hasn't got the balls."

Certainly, the people of Nogales could hardly be described as Buchanan sup-

porters. If elected to the White House, he has promised to introduce a five-year moratorium reducing annual rates of legal immigration from 888,000 to 233,000. "He is a racist who is no good for America," Alfredo Ruiz, partner in a mattress shop, said. "You can't stop people coming. From California to Texas people know they need to let immigrants in. They need us for their own economy."

Since California passed Proposition 187 in 1994, to eliminate benefits to illegal immigrants, Nogales has become a main route for "wet-back" Mexicans seeking work in America. The town has earned the title "California's side door" and, although the border patrol says arrests dropped to 3,094 in the first two weeks of this month, less than half the number caught the previous February, thousands still seep through a ragged boundary.

Campaign coffers run low for Dole

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE race for the Republican presidential nomination took another bizarre turn at the weekend with news that Robert Dole is dangerously close to reaching the federal spending limit and the top-tier candidate in the best financial health may be Pat Buchanan.

The Senate leader has had no trouble raising funds. His problem is that he has spent hugely on staff and advertising but failed swiftly to lock up the nomination. He faces an unexpectedly protracted battle that may last well into the spring, and has already spent all but \$5 million (£3.25 million) or \$6 million of the \$37 million limit imposed on candidates receiving federal funds.

In more bad news for Mr Dole, Steve Forbes won Saturday's Delaware primary. This was hardly a surprise as Mr Forbes alone campaigned in the state. Mr Forbes, from neighbouring New Jersey, attracted 33 per cent. Mr Dole 27, Mr Buchanan 19 and Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, 13.

Mr Dole originally believed he could secure the nomination with resounding victories in this month's Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primaries, but that plan went disastrously awry when he only squeaked home in the first and lost the second. Moreover he had to spend far more than planned to counter millions of dollars worth of negative advertisements from Mr Forbes.

Mr Dole's campaign has far higher overheads and is far more dependent on advertising than his rivals, and he must now fight 30 primaries including the giant states of Florida, New York, Texas and California this month with less than \$6 million.

Mr Buchanan has raised a mere \$12 million but operates in an entirely different fashion from Mr Dole. He has no costly consultants, pollsters and advertising men. He "lives off the land", depending primarily on endless interviews with local radio and television stations.

Opposition leaders held in Dhaka

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

FOUR senior opposition leaders were arrested in Bangladesh yesterday, nine days after a violent general election shattered hopes of democracy in a country for most of its life accustomed to dictatorial rule.

Chittagong, the main port, has been

closed since Saturday because of clashes between supporters and opponents of the Government, which was re-elected in a poll boycotted by all main opposition parties. Forty people were injured yesterday when government supporters broke through the strike lines of pro-opposition crowds in Chittagong.

Five years after the first free election in the country's 25-year history, democracy

is fighting for survival. Turnout in the general election was 10 per cent, mostly because thugs roamed the streets at the opposition's behest. Commentators have suggested that the armed forces may be forced to step in.

The political stalemate looks set to drive the country into greater chaos, severely hurting the fragile economy and scaring away foreign investors.

Mandela writes off rumour of ill-health

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT Mandela has addressed concerns about his health and increasing perceptions that he is indispensable to South Africa's future success in an extraordinary newspaper article.

Writing in the Johannesburg *Sunday Times* yesterday Mr Mandela said he felt "on top of the world" and laughed off "wild rumours" about his imminent death. Tales about his ill-health dated back to his days as a prisoner on Robben Island, he said. He also sought to play down his significance in South Africa's recent success by suggesting that he was just a player in much larger game.

Under a headline "Don't praise me to damn the rest", Mr Mandela said the South African people, investors and politicians were aware of his retirement after elections in 1999, yet there was confidence in the economy and South Africa's future. He added: "A ridiculous notion is sometimes advanced that Mandela has been exclusively responsible for these real achievements of the South African people, particularly our smooth transition."

The President's Office said the article was prompted by the worst run on the rand in history and concerns about the impact of unbalanced hero-worship in the media. Last week's panic was triggered by an ambulance outside Mr Mandela's office, called for a security official who had slipped.

SEE THE BOSS LIVE AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Win tickets to see Bruce Springsteen

The Times, in association with Mark Butler Associates, is offering five readers the chance to win a pair of hospitality-tickets to see Bruce Springsteen in concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

The singer has not performed in England since July 1992, when he played at Wembley Stadium, so this is a rare treat for his fans who can look forward to hearing many of his well-known hits as well as tracks from his acclaimed new solo album, *The Ghost of Tom Joad*. His three concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, scheduled on Tuesday April 16, Wednesday April 17 and Saturday April 27, are all sold out.

Our five pairs of tickets are for the concert on Wednesday April 17 and before the concert our winners will enjoy a drink at Anthony Worrall-Thompson's One Ninety Queen's Gate, a private club just a minute's stroll from the concert hall, returning after the concert for a three-course meal in the elegant restaurant. Each person will get a half bottle of wine, a concert programme, plus itineraries and maps.

For your chance to see the Boss in concert phone your answer to the following question to our competition hotline, below, before midnight on Wednesday, February 28:

What is Bruce Springsteen's nickname?

a) The King b) The Boss c) The Chief

The five winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received by the closing date. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Calls cost 39p per minute plus a rate and 49p at all other times.

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Telephone mortgage experts help homeowners exploit rate cuts

BY STEVEN DEPUT

WITH INTEREST rates at their lowest point for a generation and expectations of further falls in the months ahead, there has never been a better time to arrange a cheap mortgage.

Lenders are falling over themselves to win over potential borrowers, offering tempting deals both to home buyers and those who want to re-mortgage. Making the right choice could easily save you hundreds, or even thousands of pounds a year.

The rapid expansion of mortgage lending over the telephone in the past year is part of the same financial revolution that has brought cheap insurance and 24-hour banking to millions of homes. Today, the right mortgage choice can be just a call away.

Not surprisingly, a number of High Street lenders now claim to offer the same service to their customers. But as with most claims, some promise more than they deliver. Often, the mortgage you are offered is no cheaper than you would get by queuing in a branch. Some lenders will not complete the deal until you go in to see them.

FirstMortgage does not operate under the same old branch-based system as most other lenders. This allows it to cut overheads, passing on the savings to its customers in the form of cheaper loans. Form-filling is taken care of by FirstMortgage, saving you time and cutting out endless frustration.

All it takes to arrange that mortgage is a free call on 0800 0800 88, typically lasting no more than 15 minutes, to a consultant at the company's central offices.

FirstMortgage consultants are on hand to answer your questions about the best kind of mortgage to pick in today's climate. Because everyone has special needs, they are also there to advise on the best options to suit your individual circumstances.

Any questions you may have about the suitability of a particular loan are answered in a clear, jargon-free manner. Unlike other lenders who may also try to sell you a whole package of financial products, home loans are the only business for FirstMortgage.

Callers are asked the usual questions about their property, any existing loan and personal circumstances. An application form is filled in by the consultant and the mortgage can be agreed in principle by FirstMortgage at the end of the call, subject to normal conditions. If you agree, the form is immediately printed out with all your details and sent to you. All you then have to do is sign and return it.

FirstMortgage has loans to suit all individual circumstances. Where it can't find the right product for you from its own range, the company can provide market-beating offers from other lenders to ensure you get the best deal possible.

For example, many experts now believe it is highly likely that mortgage interest rates will fall even further in the next few months.

This belief is fuelled by a combination of factors, including the Chancellor's anticipated decision to lower base rates further, the continuing mortgage price war, plus the decision by some building societies to offer "loyalty" bonuses to their existing members.

You can gain from this by choosing a discounted mortgage, where the interest you pay is pegged several points below the prevailing rate. That way, if interest rates fall, so does the cost of your loan.

FirstMortgage now has a deal available that cuts up to 3.25 per cent off the existing average variable rate of 7.49 per cent for two years. It then moves back to the variable rate, which is guaranteed for five years to reflect the average rate offered by the top five building societies. Whatever happens, you don't lose out. Discounts of up to 2.25 per cent are on offer over a three-year period.

For those who prefer the security of knowing exactly how much their outgoings will be over several years, FirstMortgage has a competitive range of two, three and five-year fixed rate options.

Both FirstMortgage's fixed and discounted mortgages are available without the usual set-up fees, in which case a slightly higher interest rate applies.

Whatever your needs, the chances are there is a FirstMortgage loan which can be tailored to meet them. Trained consultants are on hand between 8.00am and 7.00pm, Monday to Friday, to answer any queries.

As with all mortgage lending, loans are secured on your property and are subject to status. A suitable life insurance policy is also required.

The APR is based on a typical example of a repayment loan of £45,000 for a house purchase of £50,000.

The loan term is 25 years with a discounted variable rate of interest of 4.24 per cent per annum for the first two years and thereafter at the equivalent variable rate (assumed to be 4.24 per cent p.a.).

The loan will be repaid after 300 monthly payments of £348.17 (£327.94 net of MTRAS on £30,000 at 15 per cent).

The total amount payable is £74,346, including legal fees of £250, an arrangement fee of £275, a valuation fee of £140 and a money transfer fee of £45, all of which are inclusive of VAT.

Before calling FirstMortgage for your free quote, consider the following: Do you have at least 10 per cent equity or deposit? Do you have a clean credit history with no mortgage arrears? Do you want to save time by arranging your loan over the phone? Do you want a mortgage that will save you money?

If the answer is yes to all the above then phone 0800 0800 88.

0800 0800 88

Call free now to arrange your mortgage direct

FIRST MORTGAGE

For a written quotation, write to FirstMortgage, Brentnall House, 14-15 Lancaster Place, London, WC2E 7EP. You can also reach them on the internet at <http://www.first-mortgage.co.uk/>

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOANS SECURED ON IT.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



VISUAL ART

Private masterpieces from the Doria Pamphili Gallery in Rome, on show at the National Gallery
OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



THEATRE

Peter Bowles, Deborah Grant and Caroline Langrishe star as Noël Coward's Present Laughter in his London
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



DANCE

A whodunnit in which everyone has a motive: Kim Brandstrup's new Crime Fictions for Arc at Sadler's Wells
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



OPERA

Bernard Haitink conducts as Covent Garden's controversial Götterdämmerung makes a comeback
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

Nice but not naughty



Best chemistry: Monica Zamora (Bathsheba) and Yuri Zhukov (William Boldwood), in David Bintley's new Thomas Hardy ballet

The last time the choreographer David Bintley got together with the composer Paul Reade and the designer Hayden Griffin the result was the hugely popular full-length ballet *Hobson's Choice*. This time the three of them have used the same ingredients — a well-known, very English story, a literary source that became a famous film, a cast of colourful rustics — and are no doubt hoping for a similar success. Although their new *Far from the Madding Crowd* for Birmingham Royal Ballet is not quite so appealing as *Hobson's Choice*, it looks as if the collaborators have done it again. More or less.

Far from the Madding Crowd

Birmingham Hippodrome

The story of the strong-willed West Country farm owner Bathsheba and the three men who compete for her love is told over three acts with a good deal of narrative detail, and a good deal of padding. The crowd scenes, of assembled shepherds, thatchers, dairymaids, farmers and fishermen, go on far too long, indulging Bintley's undoubted talent for folksy characterisation.

Griffin's realistic designs are simple yet strong: a rough-hewn timbered structure serves as the framework for every scene. The costumes are flattering, their earthy tones enlivened by the bold red of the cavalry officers' dress uniforms. Reade's score is accomplished and energetic, nicely attuned to the narrative requirements. And it was extremely well played at the Saturday matinee by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia, with Peter Ernst Lassen in the pit.

Best of all is what Bintley's ballet does for the acting strengths of his cast and for that reason alone it deserves its place in the Birmingham repertoire. Kevin O'Hare is really out there himself as the nasty Sergeant Troy, David Jurgin is brilliant in the final reconciliation between Gabriel Oak and Bathsheba, and Yuri Zhukov, as a charismatic William Boldwood, provides the best chemistry of all. Bathsheba's lover, Monica Zamora's dark-eyed heroine is winsome; all she needs now is a little more charisma of her own.

DEBRA CRANE

Stir fry and stir crazy

THIRTY volumes thick, the 15th-century *A Record of the Journey to the West* might be called the great novel of China. That folkloric epic tells of Tripitaka's adventurous trek to bring back the Buddhist scriptures from India. Stylistically, the farcical and meaningful, satirical and poetic mingle. The journey has long symbolised man's pilgrimage through life.

Now Ivan Heng's short, solo performance piece offers a modern version. His *Journey West*, revived in Battersea for BAC's pick of the fringe season, is comparatively flimsy though with flashes of promise. Heng portrays a young man called Ming who escapes his roots and the restrictions of Singapore to settle in London, where he is absorbed into Britain's apparently freer lifestyle. However, he also comes up against racial stereotyping. His agent keeps ringing to offer such inauspicious film parts as male prostitutes

and space aliens. Ming also runs into his own homophobia and is torn by his now-split cultural identity.

This devised piece, presented by Tripitaka Theatre Company, begins with mask work. Creating one of the evening's most powerful moments, Heng peels a grotesque paper face off his own, leaving his Chinese features down the middle. He then proceeds to pull exaggerated expressions himself, not a happy clown.

Heng pines delectably between performance styles. One minute he is a camp comic, then, turning his back, becomes his father's ghost, a hulking, almost-operatic figure. Meanwhile, following in the footsteps of the original *Journey to the West*, the script cuts between prose-poetry about bright stars and satirical send-ups of British snobs.

But although the techniques are experimental, the cultural observations seem basic for too long. *Journey West* starts to grow darker and more intriguing at its close, but before that, the alternating comedy and sadness just plays across the surface.

SWINGERS are the boys who hang themselves in prison. As *Shunee* Soyoh's new play, a three-hander deservedly transferring from the Graces to the Old Red Lion, Islington, is about the frustration, aggression and despair that develops in a young offenders' establishment.

There is a single, fleeting visitor's session, played as one-sided alienated conversation. That apart, we never leave the breeze-block cell which Hussein, a wised-up joyrider 'serving' what he hopes are the last days of his sentence, suddenly has to share. Simon, a mentally simple and unstable new arrival, is an arsonist who has had no warmth in his life.

Soyoh shows the two rubbing each other up the wrong way. But he also depicts friendship, albeit volatile. For all the personal and racial gulfs between them, they come to protect each other.

The real troublemaker is Sparks, the corrupt screw who presses home his twisted fondness for Simon ("you remind me of my son") while being bent on wrecking Hussein's life because the latter is a "Paki" and in the governor's good books. Hussein is also smart enough to beat Sparks

KATE BASSETT

LONDON

SPRING LOADED The Place Theatre's annual route to the best of British independent dance opens tonight with a programme by the award-winning Aesthetics company. Her new programme features the premiere of a duet, *Caravan Obsessions*, and a reworking of the popular *Choreo* dance, which chockily brings together Puccini extracts and tangos by Pasolini to show love in a cold climate. Place, Duke's Road, SW10 0TJ. 020 71 387 0011. Tonight, 8pm, until May 16.

MUSIC AROUND TOWN The great pianist Arthur Schnitzler starts the musical day with a handsome recital of Debussy and Dukas at South Square. Henry Brodsky and Sinfonia 21 come in tomorrow night with works by Kargel and Liszt. The evening concert is by the London Symphony Orchestra and pianist Philippe Casadesu team up for a programme of the Wigmore that includes the world premiere of a new work by John Adams. The evening concert is by the London Symphony Orchestra and pianist Philippe Casadesu team up for a programme of the Wigmore that includes the world premiere of a new work by John Adams. The evening concert is by the London Symphony Orchestra and pianist Philippe Casadesu team up for a programme of the Wigmore that includes the world premiere of a new work by John Adams.

CHAPTER TWO Tom Cane and Glenn play unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other in Neil Simon's still entertaining, touching comedy. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

EAST LYNN Mrs Henry Wood's famous tale of the downfall of Lady Lynton, is being done through the modern camera lens in a production by the National Theatre. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

THE END OF THE RAIN Samira Sami and Michael Sheen in new David La Plante play, set in the Balkans where a pacifist, to save his life, is forced to make an impossible choice between giving up smoking and giving up his life. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Dillit's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodson as the alluring inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL Mark Arden and Ben Wood. A musical of the life of the celebrated jangle-rock band, produced by Courtpoint Theatre Co. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

NEW RELEASES

CABINOS (18) Scores of epic of Las Vegas in the 1970s, glorious background detail, but the human drama flags. With Robert De Niro, Sharon Stone and Joe Pesci. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

THE SENSELESSNESS OF LIFE (18) Emma Thompson's radiant adaptation of Jane Austen's early novel, with Thompson and Kate Winslet as sisters with different approaches to romance. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

TRAINSPOTTING (18) Abrasive look at junkie life, from Irvine Welsh's novel, made by the Scottish director, with Ewan McGregor and Ewan Bremner. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

JOHNNY MEMORIE (18) The Yakuza want the contents of Keira Revell's head. Futuristic look from the director of *Johnny Rotten*. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

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JUMANJI (PG) Entertaining romp about a jungle board game that comes to life. With Robin Williams. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 01 49 5068. Mon-Fri, 8pm Sat 8.15pm; mat: Thurs, 3pm, Sat 5pm.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-435 2141) 7.30pm. *Plaza on the Park*, Kingsmen. SW1 (0171-235 5550) 5.30pm. *Tongue and Tail*, 5pm.

ELSEWHERE

BATH Tony Slatery is back on tour, playing the incredibly rare, double-edged sword of a play, *Private*, on Parade. Has comedy with music set as a 1948 Army camp party in Malaysia. Not suitable for children. Theatre Royal, Sandown (01225-448 844) 7.30pm. Thurs-Sat, 8pm; mat: Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

BRIGHTON The joint's really jumping as Clarke Peters, an inimitable tribute to Louis Jordan. Five Guys Named Moe. Theatre Royal, New Road (01273-329 488) 7.30pm. Thurs, Fri and Sat, 8pm and 8.15pm.

NOTTINGHAM Opening night for the comedy duo Steve Punt and Hugh Dennis, as they step into their first

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-389 1730). *Tongue and Tail*, 5pm, Thurs, Sat and Sun, 8pm. Final week.

SKYLIGHT Michael Garmon and Lu Williams, with Daniel Berris, in David Hare's characterisation of society's conflicts in the form of a parody reunion between two lovers. Richard Gere directs this National Theatre transfer. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-389 1730). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat: Sat 4pm.

SWEET PANIC Stephen Polakoff's thought-provoking play about the psychology of working as a child psychologist in an urban nightmare. Harriet Walter and Saskia Reeves both excellent. Haymarket, Swiss Cottage, NW2 (0171-727 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat: Sat 4pm.

TOMMY Paul Tynan's famous musical about the 19-year-old hero who became a pop star. With Kim Wilde as the mum. Don McNeill, co-

writer of the book. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5389). Now previewing, 8pm; mat: Wed and Sat, 8pm. Opens Mar 5, 7pm. Mar 4, all proceeds to Teenage Cancer Trust (0171-436 3871).

TWELFTH NIGHT Ian Judge's classic production. Interestingly recast, with Edward Petherbridge as Malvolio. Due to tour. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5389).

VALLEY BOYS Alfred Fugard's first play since the end of apartheid. Interestingly recast, with Edward Petherbridge as Malvolio. Due to tour. Oldham, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5389).

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David Brown's assessment of films in London and where to see them

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ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

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ROCK

Bruce Springsteen goes solo for his long-awaited British tour, starting in Manchester
GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday



MUSIC

Colin Davis tackles Bruckner's majestic Seventh Symphony with the LSO at the Barbican
CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



FILM

Murder and corruption run amok in the end-of-the-millennium virtual reality thriller, *Strange Days*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS

Dissecting a poet: the life and work of T.S. Eliot is examined in a trio of new books
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Still a giant step behind

THE stage gets very crowded during a James Carter performance. In the space of an hour he wheels on a score of big-name saxophonists of the past 50 years. Don Byas, John Coltrane, Illinois Jacquet, Gene Ammons, Eric Dolphy, David Murray — they, and many others besides, line up for their guest spots in the young virtuoso's stream of consciousness.

Few young saxophonists are as fluent in the vocabulary of jazz history. On his new album *The Real Quiet Storm* he goes a step or two further, adding bass clarinet, baritone saxophone and bass flute to his armory. Byas's *Real Stomp* stands alongside Bill Doggett's *Eventide* and an obscure silver of Ellington on *The Stevedore's Lament*. In the current period of consolidation, when the Marsalis generation are more interested in being cura-

James Carter
Rhythmic

tors rather than creators, Carter runs his own tenor museum.

And a stimulating place it is too; there are no cobwebbed corners here. This is old music played with a young man's lungs. What was disappointing about his *Rhythmic* set was that he so flatly ignored the observation he himself makes on the sleeve of his album: "With far fewer notes and a slower pace, you have to pull back and think even as you forge ahead." The long, undifferentiated stretches of hard blowing, sustained notes and clever quotations soon grew self-defeating.

Carter gives the impression of a man who is starting to believe all the record-company hype. There was a sullen, narcissistic edge to this display. He will have to learn to accept, for instance, that members of the audience are free to talk quietly between numbers. The great players of the past had to put up with much greater indignities. When he finally played a tenor ballad, Carter deployed a gorgeous tone at both ends of the register, yet he could not resist indulging in sardonic bleats and even broke off all together as if to suggest that he could think of better places to be. He is a very good player, but not yet the giant he thinks he is. To paraphrase an old quotation, Ben Webster drunk is better than James Carter sober.

CLIVE DAVIS

The symbiosis of film and fashion is celebrated at the NFT this week. Joe Joseph gets dressed up

Tailor-made for Hollywood

Do Hollywood and haute couture make a head-turning couple? Elsa Schiaparelli thought so. "What Hollywood designs today," she purred, "you will be wearing tomorrow," although, of course, nobody had even an inkling of *Barbarella* back then. And what influence there is has not all been one-way: while Saint Laurent, Chanel and Armani have all cut clothes for the movies, and Joan Crawford's and Clark Gable's shoulder pads were copied in every high street, the truth is that Hollywood mirrors as many fashions as it inspires.

But either way, it has been a fruitful marriage. You need only look at all the film plots that have been plucked from the fashion world: Stanley Donen's *Funny Face* and Hitchcock's *Rear Window* both feature fashion models (Audrey Hepburn and Grace Kelly); Antonioni's *Blow Up* focuses on a fashion photographer; in *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*, Petra is a possessive fashion designer; Robert Altman's recent *Prêt-à-Porter* is one long squint at the fashion world.

As for Jerry Schatzberg's *Puzzle of a Downfall Child*, it not only traces the life of a top fashion model (Faye Dunaway), but the film marked Schatzberg's directorial debut after his successful first career as a fashion photographer.

So, a fruitful marriage, then. But fruitful enough to merit a season of fashion-related movies in London? The National Film Theatre thinks so.

"The clothes people are wearing, and how they look, is a central feature of many films," says Peter Wollen, who is curating the NFT programme, called *Unzipped: Film and Fashion*. "Fashion contributes to the look of the film. But it also affects your view of the characters. Your judgment about them is altered by the clothes they wear. Hitchcock, who acted almost as a personal dresser to his characters, had very strong opinions about what his stars should wear."

Wollen, Professor of Film at UCLA and also a film-maker, says that ever since the 1910s, when fashion shows were filmed as shorts for supporting programmes by Pathé and others, or inserted into gloomy newsreels to liven up the footage, haute couture and



Pretty as a fashion plate: Jerry Schatzberg's 1970 film *Puzzle of a Downfall Child* traced the life of a top model, played by Faye Dunaway

Hollywood have picked each other's pockets.

Clothes designers have always been aware of the commercial rewards of working in Hollywood. Givenchy made Hepburn's costumes in *Funny Face*. Mary Quant designed Charlotte Rampling's "Swinging London" wardrobe in *Georgy Girl*. Vidal Sassoon cut Mia Farrow's hair for *Rosemary's Baby*, and Yves Saint Laurent dressed Catherine Deneuve in *Les Baisers de Jeanne*. Coco Chanel worked on Alain Resnais' *Last Year in Marienbad* and Renée's *La Règle du Jeu*.

Nino Cerruti had a hand in Faye Dunaway's outfits for *Bonnie and Clyde*. Ralph Lauren launched the "Annie Hall" look when he kitted out Diane Keaton. In Paul Schrader's *American Gigolo*, an entire scene is devoted to

panning across several shelves of Richard Gere's Armani wardrobe. Cerruti has draped his fabrics over everyone, from Robert Redford in *Indecent Proposal* to the stars of *Fatal Attraction*, *Pretty Woman*, *The Silence of the Lambs* and *Basic Instinct*. Peter Greenaway's *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover* was Jean Paul Gaultier's calling card into the movies.

All of them benefited from exposure on the screen. Armani is almost a uniform among wealthy Hollywood folk. James Acheson's award-winning costumes for *Dangerous Liaisons* even spawned a range of "Dangerous Liaisons" lingerie.

But designers also acknowledge Hollywood's influence on them. Gaultier says: "Ben Hur, Gone with the Wind, The Wild One have all had an

impact on my collections, and the cinema has continued to affect style as late as *Bonnie and Clyde* and *Once Upon a Time in the West*." Giorgio Armani, who also designed the clothes for Brian de Palma's film *The Untouchables*, says he has loved the films of the 1930s and 1940s since his childhood in Placeria, where the local cinema provided the length and breadth of the local's entertainment, and cinema remains his "second love — outside fashion".

Maybe it was just coincidence, but Wollen points out that many of the men who created the Hollywood dream factory came from the world of women's clothing, though it was known as the garment industry rather than couture and it stood several rungs below the empires of Schiaparelli and Chanel. Adolph

Zukor was a furrier who made the cash he needed to invest in the film business by making a speculative killing in red-tail pelts. Sam Goldwyn was a glove salesman. Louis B. Mayer was a used-clothes dealer. The Warner brothers' father, Benjamin, was a cobbler who made his sons' clothes himself. Harry Cohn's father owned a tailor's shop.

"I do think this had an influence in the 1920s, when there was a taste for flamboyant costumes," says Wollen. "Studio heads loved to see these sumptuous, over-the-top costumes. Particularly in the age of silent films, the costumes said a lot."

The 14 films being shown in the NFT's season include *Unzipped*, the semi-fictional, fly-on-the-wall-style account of an Isaac Mizrahi show, and David Byrne's stunningly-co-

turned *True Stories*, which blurs the distinction between fiction and documentary. Anything missing?

"I couldn't find any film with Issey Miyake costumes, and to me he's the great designer of our times. That's my big regret. He's done theatre, but not films. You'd think that Paul Schrader, after using Armani in *American Gigolo*, might have used Miyake in his *Mishima* film, but he used Eiko Ishioka instead. There are no John Galliano movie designs, or Comme des Garçons, either."

But even film fans can be influenced only so far. You do not find many cinema devotees working overtime to save up for a Woody Allen wardrobe.

Film and Fashion at the NFT runs from Friday to March 20. Tickets: 071-928 3232

OPERA

A shot from the lip

THE Greek mezzo Markella Hatziano has at last appeared as Verdi's *Amneris*, the role intended for her Covent Garden debut. Cancellations and defections forced the Royal Opera to shuffle the pack of available singers at the start of the year and Hatziano began by being drafted into *Samson et Dalila*, where she performed with considerable credit.

Playing Dalila and Amneris back to back is inadvisable, especially for those who sing at full throttle as she does. But *Samson* is now over and Hatziano takes up position in *Memphis*.

She adds ballast to the cast. Rodney Milnes described early in this month. She has a formidable chest register and is not afraid to exploit it to the

Aida
Covent Garden

full, arms akimbo like an energetic copper on point-duty. It recalls the extrovert singing of Cossetto and Gorr; nothing wrong with that. Amneris and Aida (Andrea Gruber, a soprano not short of a few decibels) go at one, another in Act II, squabbling over the body of Radames like a couple of *grandes dames*. And *grazie* is the word.

She also let rip in the Trial Scene, giving a bit too much to begin with, so there were signs of flagging at the close. But she covered this up well. An Eboli from Hatziano in *Don Carlos* could be exciting.

Broad gestures are the order of the evening. Sidwell Hartman's Radames is forceful and not very lyrical. Gregory Yuritsch's Amonasro (full of fury, Norman Bailey's King of the Jews) is uncomfortably rough, especially against Robert Lloyd's suave Ramfis. No doubts about who runs *Memphis*.

The conductor, Jan Latham-Koenig, had his moments, especially in the big ensembles. But some of the individual playing was scrawny after the glories Mackerras achieved in *Semele* on Monday. There is plenty of raw energy in this *Aida*, but those in search of subtlety should hold on for another day.

JOHN HIGGINS

Angry and chilling

Tori Amos
Regent, Ipswich

bling notes are interrupted by thumping chords, and are accompanied by singing that rushes from breathy hesitancy to full-throated assurance. The music seems to follow the cracked logic of private thoughts.

Songs from her earlier records — *Crucify* or

Corianna Girl — retain a surer structure, but they, too, are given an extra passion as she straddles the piano stool, one leg stretched back as if awaiting the starter's gun.

This passion is, however, strangely enigmatic. While your ears are regaled with the brittle beauty of her playing, they are also assailed with some very weird lines: "I'm just coming out of the call in my brain" (*Little Amsterdam*) or "She thinks she's Kaiser Wilhelm or a civilised syllabus" (*Mr Zebra*).

She, too, retains an air of mystery. She says little between songs, and her face remains in partial shadow. She is lit from above or from the side, while overhead swirling patterns or strange images are projected onto a triangular screen. We are left to sit and wonder at her feelings as she sends her voice through the spiraling flights that provoke those inevitable comparisons with Kate Bush, Joni Mitchell and Björk.

It is all the more extraordinary, then, when she breaks out of her solipsistic cocoon for *Me and a Gun*, the true story of a rape. She turns to face the audience, and sings unaccompanied a gentle folk tune. Her understated anger is so direct that it is we who want to look away and hide in the shadows. It is as chilling as it is brilliant.

JOHN STREET

Full marks for zero effort

CONCERT

LSO/Davis
Barbican

IN THE fourth of the 14 programmes in his continuing Bruckner/Mozart series with the London Symphony Orchestra, to which an extra repeated programme has now been added on March 1, Sir Colin Davis stepped aside from the mainstream of Bruckner's symphonies to focus our attention on his "Zero Symphony" or *Symphony No 0*, of which the composer wrote on the score, "only an attempt. Totally invalid".

Since it came back into circulation (and recording), however, it has been shown not to deserve such a put-down. Certainly on this occasion, Sir Colin made a persuasive case for our enjoyment of it on its own terms, which are those of an emerging musical personality already beginning to establish itself. Maybe there is evidence of Bruckner treating his ideas like musical building blocks, not lacking in character so much as in construction.

One Brucknerian has likened it to "overweight Rossini", but to my mind there is more in common with Schubert and Mendelssohn, the latter in particular in relation

to a jolly scherzo movement, a beguilingly languid trio section.

Although the preceding *Andante* suggested the composer was uncertain of his way, the affecting writing for woodwind was a delight in this performance, as were the strenuous orchestral efforts to make the most of big unison effects, contrasted with dancing triplets in the finale.

The conductor took a generally broad view of a work which acknowledges its antecedents without either treading or trading on them too heavily. It may have been only an "attempt", but it is one that is worth our acquaintance in relation to more familiar Bruckner.

In contrast, familiarity with Mozart's *A major Violin Concerto* (K219) on the part of the soloist here, Anne-Sophie Mutter, bred certainly not contempt but too much of a kind of easygoing contentment, without trace of fizz, even in the "Turkish" episode.

For all its elegance, a good deal more zip was needed from both soloist and orchestra, such as one heard in the opening overture to Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, endowed with a spirit and character that made one regret Sir Colin was not conducting more of the opera, preferably all of it.

NOEL GOODWIN

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Anjana Ahuja reports on the attempt to copy a chemical that could cure cancer

It is the stuff of scientific fantasy — discover a rare compound, find out it is a possible cure for cancer, and manufacture tons of it in the laboratory.

Researchers at University College London are trying to turn that fantasy into reality with the help of barnacles. The UCL team of chemists, led by Dr Karl Hale, is attempting to replicate, or synthesise, bryostatin 1 (B1 for short), a compound found on the hulls of ships which sail in the Caribbean.

B1, which is made naturally by barnacles which live only on these ships, has been found to kill many types of cancer cells and to stimulate the immune system. It is already on limited trial at the Chur-

'You sit down with a coffee and picture a molecule'

chill Hospital, Oxford, and Hope Hospital, Manchester.

Rather than make B1, wouldn't it be simpler just to collect it from lots of barnacles? "Doctors can run full-scale medical trials only when they have enough of the stuff, and the natural yield is too low," says Dr Hale. "You would need to process a ton of barnacles to get half a gram. The other drawback is that isolating B1 is a very arduous procedure, and it would take a year to get that half a gram."

B1 was first isolated in the mid-1980s by the eminent isolation chemist George Pettit and co-workers at Arizona State University. Separate, later studies found that B1 doubled the lifespan of mice with ovarian cancer. It was a big breakthrough. "Ovarian cancer is a tough nut to crack, as it is very resistant to chemotherapy. Also, only a low dose was needed to combat the disease," says Dr Hale.

Scientists found two possible mechanisms responsible for the potency of B1. It either interferes with communications between cancerous cells, or it triggers into action dormant T-cells, which defend the body against attack.

Research groups across the world were also triggered into action — to see if they could make up the shortfall in nature. The structure of B1 was quickly unravelled by scientists, and the individual building blocks of the molecule identified. That signalled the start of the race to synthesise B1.

In the case of Dr Hale, who got going in 1991, all his pieces start with a cup of coffee and a good think. "You sit down with a picture of the molecule in your head and



The making of a molecule: chemist Nelsa Jogiya with a model used in the manufacture of a synthesised compound used to treat cancer. In nature, it is found in barnacles.

Miracle in a mollusc

think about what chemical bonds you can break," he says. "After a while you end up with a simpler molecule. Then you just keep working backwards so that the molecule becomes even simpler."

The aim of this approach, called *retrosynthetic analysis*, is to arrive at a starter molecule which is cheap and readily available. The next step is to graft onto this starter molecule, through test-tube reactions, other chemical groups. Through this painstaking chemical Lego, scientists can eventually rebuild the target substance.

There are obstacles. Sometimes additional bonds — some with undesirable side-effects — are formed. Such setbacks require new plans of

action — perhaps a different way of constructing the target substance. "Most chemists will use different routes to build a particular chemical, depending on their expertise," Dr Hale says.

Another problem is that some compounds show *chirality*, which means they exist in two forms which are mirror images of each other. Just as a jigsaw piece will not necessarily fit the puzzle when turned upside down, the two forms of a chiral compound, of which B1 is an example, will not necessarily react identically. However, the desired version can be made by using a substance called a chiral reagent. In the case of

B1, making the wrong mirror image would have unknown effects, since this other form has never been found in nature.

Dr Hale and two PhD students overcame these obstacles and reached the halfway stage this year, hot on the heels of rival chemists at Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Despite such promising progress, Dr Hale may have to throw in the towel. Two weeks ago he had an application for a grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) — to pay for an experienced chemist — turned down. He had applied to the EPSRC because funds from a variety of sources, including the Royal

Society and several pharmaceutical companies, were drying up. Dr Hale says he feels the ground has been snatched away from under him.

"I am very surprised, because our results are so good," he says. "I have presumably been turned down because the project was not thought important enough. But how much more important can you get than a trying to make a substance which puts cancer into remission?"

Fortunately, Dr Hale is not working exclusively on B1. He has engaged several researchers to work on the mysteriously named A3388C (AC, for short). This potent antibiotic, of "unprecedented structure", was discovered by accident in the soil on the Pacific island of

Guam, and research into its chemical make-up has attracted a more generous grant of £200,000 from the EPSRC.

Dr Hale recalls: "Animal health scientists were looking for animal growth promoters, and AC was estimated as part of their natural screening process." Test-tube reactions showed that AC could kill off almost all bacterial infections and cancers — but tests on mice proved disastrous. "The compound killed the mice before it had even had a chance to work on their ailments," he says.

Several international research groups eagerly awaiting these results abandoned plans to synthesise the substance. However, undeterred by such devastating toxicity,

Dr Hale took a more studied approach. He decided to examine the molecular design of AC, find out where the toxic bits lie, and take them out.

The result would be a non-toxic analogue — a molecular relative of AC boasting its bacteria and cancer-killing potential but without the deadly side-effects. Such a substance would see off the growing army of bacteria resistant to modern antibiotics.

Outbreaks of such bacteria are rare, but they strike with such virulence that developing new and stronger drugs to wipe them out has become an important research area.

This is why Dr Hale believes research into synthesis is so important. Each faltering step is also an advance in

chemistry. "Sometimes, you have to develop a completely new synthetic method for performing a chemical step, and that extends our library of knowledge," he says.

Dr Hale is three quarters of the way through synthesising AC. "We have about six steps left to go but you never really know how long each step is going to take," he says.

He envisages finishing next year, and then starting the arduous search for a non-toxic analogue. Meanwhile, work on B1 is suspended, and with it the hopes of patients and doctors excited by the prospect of a cancer cure. Dr Hale intends to pester other grant-giving bodies but is dismayed at losing the edge on his competitors. "Even if I do

'What is more important than holding back cancer?'

eventually get some money, I think the delay will have cost us our chance of getting there first."

The outcome might be more positive for other groups involved in synthesis research. This is especially true of research conducted for drugs companies, for whom the ability to build substances from scratch is a dream come true. The importance of chemical synthesis was highlighted last year, when the pharmaceuticals giant Zeneca bestowed £1.15 million — its largest single gift to chemistry research — on the chemistry department of Cambridge University.

The grant is being used to explore an exciting branch of research known as *combinatorial chemistry*, in which a number of basic chemical building blocks are mixed and matched, or combined, in different ways. There are methods for doing this at present, but they are so slow that only 20 compounds can be manufactured and screened each week.

The Cambridge group hopes to develop a technique of building and sifting through a million compounds a week. Achieving this rate will involve miniaturising the process, so they can churn out lots of tiny samples, and developing an automated screening technique, so that the samples are barely in existence before being dumped onto a conveyor belt and put through exhaustive tests.

If a compound is found to be "active", then the researchers can isolate and refine, or even rebuild it. Such research, the company hopes, will lead to the discovery of a new generation of wonder drugs.

A surprising pattern to disease □ How to increase your fleece □ The death throes of a binary star

Fingerprint clue to health

AT A medical centre in Baltimore, Maryland, patients complaining about digestive problems are in for a surprise. Dr Marvin Shuster, a specialist in digestive diseases at the Bayview Medical Centre, part of Johns Hopkins University, asks if he can take their fingerprints.

Dr Shuster has found that people who suffer from disorder called chronic intestinal pseudo-obstruction, or CIP, are much more likely than others to have a rare fingerprint pattern known as

a digital arch. In a seven-year study recently published in the *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, he reports that 54 per cent of the patients he and a colleague had studied had this particular pattern.

"About 93 per cent of people have fingerprints formed by loops or whorls," he says. "Both begin and end on the same side of the finger. Fin-

gerprints from people with CIP generally resemble Roman arches, starting on one side and ending on the other."

Why the fingerprint should be linked to a disease that causes abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, and debilitating weight loss may at first seem inexplicable. Dr Shuster suggests that the cause must be genetic, since he has found that the more digital arches there are, the stronger the correlation.

But there is, perhaps, an alternative explanation, deriving from work by Professor David Barker at Southampton University and now under investigation by a team at Liverpool University. From old birth records, Professor

Barker and colleagues have shown that many diseases, including heart disease and diabetes, are linked to weight at birth and hence to conditions in the womb.

It is in the first 20 weeks of foetal life that fingerprints are laid down, the same period in which the major organs are formed. The hypothesis is that dietary deficiencies in the mother at this time may affect the development of the organs, leaving the baby poorly prepared for



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

adult life. If so, the pattern could be reflected in the fingerprints. The Southampton team found that whorls — which look like concentric circles — appear to be commoner in people with high blood pressure, and may be a marker for poor nutritional status in the womb.

To check if this is true, Clarissa Stevenson and Professor Peter Pharaoh, at Liverpool, have been studying a group of 400 low-birthweight children born on Merseyside in 1980.

B1, taking palm and fingerprints from each and comparing them to controls of normal birthweight.

The study, three-quarters complete, is designed to show whether there is a link between fingerprints, high blood pressure, and lung function. It is already known, Professor Barker says, that some conditions that originate in the womb, including cerebral palsy and Down's syndrome, are linked with specific fingerprint patterns.

Success in linking fingerprints to other diseases could help in diagnosis. In the case of CIP, the fingerprint discovery could do away with any need for exploratory surgery to diagnose the condition. And if a link to high blood pressure can definitely be established, early diagnosis could be used to give advice about diet or other ways of avoiding health problems.

Woolly genes flock together

FARM animals are the outcome of 10,000 years of selective breeding. Now the process has taken a new step, with the production in New Zealand of transgenic sheep that produce more wool without any detrimental effects on the animals' health.

The result was achieved by linking two genes together, one from a sheep and one from a mouse. The team from Lincoln University in Canterbury, led by Dr David BullOCK, used the sheep gene that codes for a substance called insulin-like growth factor. Many experiments have shown that this factor is

involved in controlling the growth of animals.

In sheep grown for wool, the point is to breed not giants, but ordinary sheep with better fleeces. So the team attached the sheep growth factor gene to a mouse gene which promotes the production of keratin, the protein that forms the outermost layer of skin. In this way, they guessed, the extra growth factor would produce more wool rather than a bulkier sheep.

They report in the current issue of *Biotechnology* that the strategy worked. At 14 months of age, clean fleece weight in the transgenic sheep was increased by 6.2 per cent.

"Our knowledge this is the first reported improvement in a production trait by genetic engineering of a farm animal without adverse effects on health or reproduction," they say.

Mystery object in outer space

AMERICAN astronomers have identified a very peculiar object at the centre of our galaxy, the Milky Way.

Found at the end of last year by the satellite-borne Compton Gamma Ray Observatory, the object emits X-rays and gamma rays in regular pulses and in erratic bursts — up to 18 an hour. Known as GRO J1744-28 from its catalogue number, the object was quickly nicknamed a "bursting pulsar".

Its behaviour, says Professor Don Lamb of the University of Chicago, is unlike anything ever seen before. In a paper submitted to *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, he and colleagues Dr Coleman Miller from Chicago and Dr Ronald Taam from Northwestern University say they believe that the signals are the death throes of a low-mass X-ray binary star.

This consists of a very dense neutron star with a second ordinary star in orbit around it. The two circle each other once every 12 days. The second star is dying, puffing up and shedding its outer hydrogen shell which is then drawn towards the neutron star, crashing to the surface and igniting thermonuclear explosions that account for the strange and unpredictable bursts of energy.

"We know a lot about what happens when a star dies alone," says Professor Lamb. "But we don't know what happens when it is in a binary system."

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Learning to live without Christopher

The comedian Julian Clary talks to Mary Riddell about the death of his lover from Aids — and why his stage persona has become a drag

In the end, the whole lot was junked. The frills, the feathers, the tights, the body suits and the sequins he once wore in quantities sufficient to make *Come Dancing* look minimalist. Julian Clary does not use the word parody, but it is clear that, even by his own elastic standards, things had gone too far.

All those costume changes, I mean, I could see my life stretching ahead of me — an endless round of looking at fabric swatches. Besides, I'm 40 in four years, and to my mind there's something sad and tragic about an ageing homosexual squeezing into Lycra and putting on make-up.

And so, in a style transplant akin to the Queen adopting ruffa skirts, Clary will appear before the audiences for his forthcoming tour, wearing suits. "Day clothes," you know, velvet stuff. But glamorous. I suppose the word sophisticated springs to mind.

There is a hopeful note to his voice, for it is obvious that the outrageous trappings on which he built his career have finally become wearisome. We are sitting in a wine bar, where Clary is puffing through a pack of Benson and Hedges and sipping the bottle of white wine bequeathed (although not, as it transpired, paid for) by a previous interrogator from something called *Thud* magazine.

He is surprised that I wanted to talk to him. Why? "Oh, you know, I'm just some camp comic light entertainment shirtdrifter," he says, slightly bitterly, and, in terms of high camp, his act indeed attains the altitude of a Mont Blanc bivouac.

His entire repertoire, from the TV shows to the particularly unpleasant live television insult to Norman Lamont — for which London Weekend Television had to issue a public apology — has been dedicated to establishing that image.

The odd thing is that Clary, although always a more complex man than his material suggested, has grown so tired of it. So bored, it seems, that the new show is an autobiographical ramble round his life, his parents (a probation officer and a policeman), his lovers and his retired stage companion, Penny The Wonderdog.

If age has redefined what he wants to do, then so have the areas of his life not served up for public consumption. Four years have

passed since Christopher, his lover, died of an Aids-related illness, and although Clary has sketched in a brief account of therapy and sorrow for the benefit of interviewers — he has never elaborated on his loss.

He incorporates some mention of Christopher into his act, but he could not in the end bear to. "I couldn't find a way to do that, although there are some things about death that are very funny."

"After Christopher died, I did as he had asked and took his ashes to Portugal to scatter them on the beach where we used to go together. I took him in a little metal urn which showed up on the X-ray machines. I had Portuguese airport

officials asking me what was in the box, and I had to say: 'My boyfriend.'"

There is the small, rather thin, smile of someone accustomed to combining the amusing and the heartbreaking and pretending not to notice when the mixture curdles. He did it for months — watching by day as the man whom he loved grew weaker and more helpless and, by night, feeding to audiences the familiar shock-tactic patter of jokes about gay sex.

And even now, four years on, he goes home to his north London flat and hangs his new velvet suits next to the old ones in the bedroom cupboard. Grey suits. Business suits. The uniforms of a man who programmed computers for Marks & Spencer — a man inconspicuous in life and notable in death only because of his association with Julian Clary.

"Christopher was very private, then and now, which is why I have never talked about him before. But, yes, I kept his suits. Nice suits, but too small for me. I find it very difficult to throw away anything of

his. What I find useful, too, is not to think that the relationship is over — to believe it's still going on and have some sort of dialogue with the person who's no longer around.

"I think of things that would be funny to Christopher. He laughed at very physical things, like people falling over in the street — a rather cruel sense of humour. Things like that make me think of him."

"I don't know if I felt a despair at watching him die. The relationship changed into one of looking after him, and in a way it was a privilege. It wasn't hard to nurse him because he wasn't terribly miserable. He was trying all the time to lead a normal life and not to let the illness get in the way."

"He was 28 when he died, and I was 31, and it was so young for him to deal with his demise and for me to cope with bereavement. At that age you're too busy being a young person to think of death, even though so many gay men go through the same thing. I suppose afterwards you feel rage — that's the second stage. The final one is acceptance. People say the four-year mark is significant — that that's when you can come out of the black."

And now there is a new boyfriend — a topic which drives Clary into an agony of tactful hedging. "I'm on very tricky ground, because he's going to read this. So I can't say that it's not at all like Christopher, or that I love him twice as much."

We settle on a little formula about it being too soon to create a relationship which is more than superficial. "Yes, I'll go along with that," he says, relieved. "I wanted to give you an answer which is true but not too embarrassing for us all to read."

Quite the most surprising thing about him is his honesty. Interviewers — once they have recovered from the fact that he is tall, attractive and less caked in make-up than Barbara Cartland — have complained that he is also prickly, monosyllabic and prone to invention.

But he is actually scrupulously honest. "It's a bit of a curse really. I wish I had lots of showbiz answers, so that this would be less of an ordeal. But I think it's important to say something honest, even if it's not particularly clever."

"And I am also a bit calmer and



The new Julian Clary: a domestic life devoted to doing the laundry, reading and feeding the cat — but he still has the ability to shock

more confident now. That's why I don't need all that armour to get on stage."

Away from the spotlight he leads a life quiet to the point of torpor, in which he does the laundry (a particular hobby), makes elaborate collages, reads crime books, feeds the cat and occasionally — although he tries to curb it — takes to his bed in a fit of depression.

"I like monogamy. There's a lot to be said for it in terms of a peaceful life. I spend lots of time calming myself down and being nice and domestic and quiet. It would cause me stress to be in a polygamous relationship. Most gay relationships have that understanding, because sex is such a big deal for gay men. You suffer for your sexuality."

His concern is with the rights and needs of gay men, and he is a persuasive ambassador, but — however toned-down his new act may be, and however influenced it may be by his own tragedy — he is naturally still mandated to shock.

Before I left, he stuck out both arms and gave me a quick inventory of his jewellery. "This is a ring

you are supposed to wear round your genitals. Here, do hold it. I promise you I've only ever worn it as a bracelet. And on this arm, there is the watch that my grandfather left to me when he died..."

On one hand, the vaguely salacious. On the other, the sentimental. A reasonable illustration of the contradictory nature of Julian Clary.

Brushing up on the art of hair flicking

The Princess of Wales started the fashion for head tossing — and now half the young women in the land are at it. Giles Coren has had enough



Susannah Constantine: mistress of the flying tresses

At school, we used to count them. They sat in a row at one end of the German class horseshoe: five girls, four professional hair flickers — the fifth had a stiff red perm that just wouldn't budge — and, while slumbering through their Goethe, they would flick up to ten times a minute.

We gave names to each different style of dislodgement. There was the "is it still there?" flick, in which a hand oscillated backwards through the hair as if to check that none of it had fallen out. There was the "double flip", which turned the drape from one side to the other and then back again, and the incredible "double flip with half-pike", which involved pilging the hair on the head in the middle of the second pass and then letting it fall with a slight inclination of the neck.

That, of course, was back when the Princess of Wales

was still the apple of all our eyes, and hair auto-manipulation was not yet a political gesture.

For the flicktease has become the equivalent of a Masonic handshake in high society. Jemima Goldsmith, Tara Palmer-Tomkinson, and Susannah Constantine were golden examples to well-tressed wannabes like Amanda de Cadenet and Danni Behr, who flicked their way to the top of the social whirl. Millionaire socialite Tamara Beckwith's flick made her an actress, and Koo Stark's wheeled her into Prince Andrew's affections.

Literary flickers include *Catholic Herald* Editor Christina Odone, who flicks out of encephalic respect for I Corinthians 11, 14: "If a

woman have long hair, it is a glory to her." Then there is *Spectator* columnist Petronella Wyatt, and novelist Rachel Cusk, who, despite a distinctly 19th-century writing style, enjoys a follicular freedom that was denied to Jane Austen by her bonnet, and to George Eliot by her ugliness.

Lavvy flickers include Liz Hurley (who learnt it from Hugh), and Emma Thompson, who has brought a new meaning to the phrase "going to see a flick".

Poets have long been fascinated with the sexual lure of the flick. Pope saw its power in *The Rape of the Lock*: "Fair tresses own's imperial race insure, And beauty draws us with a single hair." But it was

Keats who spotted the crucial ingredient in his ode *To Autumn*: "They hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind."

If there is no winnowing wind, though, a girl must soft-lift it herself, as the shampoo industry well knows. Think of the Timotei girl flinging her head back out of a bucket of water so that it fans into something like the back of a sailfish.

T.S. Eliot, misogynist and sociopath that he was, summed up the spiritual emptiness of the modern world in *The Wasteland* with "she smooths her hair with automatic hand". But is not this ubiquitous 20th-century tick an atavistic substitute for the lady's fan?

In 18th-century drawing rooms Tamara and Jemima would have half-hidden, half-revealed their faces with the fluttering of a fan. It was a social crutch in 18th-century drawing rooms, a soothing fiddle and an instrument of sexual entrapment. Modern woman has had to resort to the home-harvested prop of cuticle and keratin for the purpose of alternate concealment and revelation.

The fact is, though, and this is not often stated boldly enough, that flicking your hair is a revolting habit, an act of social terrorism on a par with nose-picking and bottom-scratching.

Lovely though it was to behold the school hair flickers at their ballet, my delight turned to disgust one summer morning when they did a synchronised quadruple reverse turn, with double pike, right in front of a south-

facing window. As the four young hands swept their respective bairns into the air, I saw a cloud of dust and dandruff picked out by the morning shine.

This was followed by a "follicle shotput", which involves bowing the head so that hair hangs forward and then, after pulling all the strands into a perfect curtain, flinging them back so that the hair sprays at 360 degrees like a nail-bomb.

Except it was not nails that flew in the glare, but any number of flakes of skin. It is a cardinal rule, among the nicer people, not to brush one's hair in public. Nor would you adjust your bra at a social event, floss your teeth or, dig for toe jam. Alluring though modern Rapunzels may think it is, they should bear one easy guideline in mind. Don't flick your hair where you wouldn't flick a bogey.

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Matthew Parris



I wish love would take its many splendours somewhere else — I've got work to do

Is there too much sex on television? A friend and I were watching *Neighbours* as an impossibly good-looking and suntanned young Australian, in shorts, and his nubile girlfriend (they looked about 17) headed for bed. A kiss had occurred. Sex was in prospect. Naturally they had a condom. Of course, you never actually see anything: the camera pans delicately away toward the bedroom curtains. You have to guess.

But still my friend was vexed. "It's not the scene itself," she said, "you cannot object to two people kissing on TV. And it's not the implication that sex occurs between unmarried teenagers. We know that."

"No, what's so corrupting is not the fact of sex in soap opera, but the *relentlessness* of it. Sex, sex, sex. Again and again the storyline returns to sex. Kids are growing up to think sex is all that's worthwhile in life. An opinion frequently expressed. It may be a fair point. I offer no judgment. For it is something else in *Neighbours*, *Heartbreak High* and (at a much more sophisticated level) soaps like *EastEnders* and *Brookside*, which offends me. Love. The constant intrusion of love. Never mind the sex, it's the love I'm sick of: why are people on television always falling in love, talking about love, falling out of love, falling in love again? There is too much love on prime-time TV."

Sex, after all, doesn't take long and you can always switch off. Few of the relationships in mainstream soap opera are of the casual, animal kind whose celebration in the modern media conservative moralists so deplore. This is not a fair charge against the plots of family soaps. Where sex comes in, it is usually of the "sex within a loving relationship" kind. Where a moral is implied it is the triumph of true love. The complaint that soap-makers peddle raw sex, without human relationships in all their depth and complexity, is rarely sustainable.

They peddle almost nothing else. Show me one more human relationship in all its depth and complexity, and I'll scream. Relationships, relationships, relationships. From Jane Austen to *Blind Date*, it's all the same. And it's simply a lie. The primacy of human relationships is the great human evasion. The notion that our highest purpose on this planet is to love and be loved: that is the great corruption. We can know nothing about others beyond fantasising that they may be like us. That a man finds himself, or a woman herself, through a relationship with another that life's happiest endings consist in some profound fusing of two souls — these are the pernicious untruths. These are what trivialise the possibility

ties of mankind. These lead millions away from self-discovery towards the pursuit of, at best, narcotic contentment; at worst, disappointment. Love, if we are unlucky enough to find it, leaves us grounded. Stuck fast in the shallows of human experience.

Coupling kills. Close relationships cripple. In the face of every saccharine assurance to the contrary, I assert — on the evidence of everyone I've known well, woman or man, who has fallen in love with someone else (or, indeed, with me), every friendship I have lost to a "relationship", every companion I have lost to a lover — that human beings are diminished by the transition. The best that can be hoped of romance is that it dwindle into affection. In romance we sink, we fade, we falter, we lose self-confidence and self-respect: we cease to cohere. Occasionally, one meets people who seem genuinely enriched by a relationship; but there was almost always something wrong with them beforehand: they were not viable as individuals. A half and a half may make one, but one and one makes about one and a quarter.

Show me one more relationship in all of its complexity, and I'll scream

I pity, staggering around, moon-faced, on *Neighbours*, their brains empty and their legs perfect, falling in love. Don't they have careers? Don't they have hopes, talents? Don't they have ambitions? Can they sing? Dance? Play the guitar? Change a plug? Plaster a ceiling, run a mile? We are hardly told.

Have you noticed how TV drama is dominated by love, crime, vets and hospitals? Kissing, being ill, slaving over animals and taking a morbid interest in the wrongdoing of others: these, now God is dead, are the staples of a liberal culture. Relationships, and — worse — talking about relationships, are really a kind of self-relief for a society which has stunted the more exciting and dangerous of human drives. People fall in love because they think they have nothing to do.

Nothing to do? Leave love with its slippers by the fire; put on your boots. Lift your gaze from your lover's eyes and see the sky behind, and all the stars! There are mountains and forests and rivers, whole wide oceans to cross. There are furrows to plough, rocks to shift, streams to dam. There is work, so much work — that happiest of pursuits — to be done.

"How alike," someone once wrote, "are the groans of love to those of the dying!"

The Scott report's missing summary should have concluded that the Attorney-General was negligent

Why Sir Nicholas should carry the can

in the Matrix Churchill case? Finding: There was.

9. Can the Attorney-General be held responsible for the errors of this prosecution? Finding: He can.

10. Did the Attorney-General mislead Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, on the law on public interest immunity certificates? Finding: He did.

11. Did the ministers who signed PFI certificates do so recklessly or wrongly? Finding: In the light of the Attorney-General's advice, they did not.

12. Did the Government conspire to cover up its own conduct by using PFI to send innocent men to prison? Finding: It did not.

Of these 12 findings, seven may be regarded as non-controversial, but five are controversial. It seems to be generally agreed that lethal arms were not exported to Iraq, but arms-making equipment was. That the Government did know of these exports, that the Matrix Churchill prosecution should not have been brought, but ministers were entitled to rely on the Attorney-General's interpretation of the law on PFI certificates, and that the Government did not conspire to pervert justice.

This leaves two groups of issues which are in dispute. The first: Were the guidelines changed? Was Parliament told? Should William Waldegrave be held individually responsible? The second group is: Did Sir Nicholas Lyell fail in the Attorney-General's duty to supervise the Matrix Churchill prosecution? Did he mislead the ministers about the state of the law as it then stood? These groups could be called the Waldegrave and the Lyell issues.

There is an important difference. Sir Nicholas Lyell, as Attorney-General, had an independent role in advising the Government on law, and an independent responsibility for preventing miscarriages of justice. It has long been established that the Prime Minister of the day cannot tell

responsible for their own actions may be admirable, but his concentration on Waldegrave is a defect in his report. He fires at the patrol boat, but misses the fleet. Waldegrave's subordinate responsibility is not negligible, but it is quite different from Lyell's independent constitutional function.

The question whether the guidelines were changed will be one of the main issues of today's debate. My own judgment, like Scott's, is that they were, but I am more sympathetic to the counter-arguments than he is. There is no precision about guidelines: they are not statutes but indicators of a policy, which changes with events, and events change greatly: there was the ceasefire, the Salman Rushdie case, and so on. A reasonable man could have taken the view William Waldegrave took at the time, with complete integrity, and indeed Scott accepts Waldegrave's integrity, though he disputes his judgment.

I should also have given more weight than Sir Richard to the problem of Iraq. If there was a change, how could Parliament be told without setting off a new storm in our difficult relations with the Iranian regime? That was a real national interest. Disclosure in the way of disclosure. However, the responsibility was plainly that of the Government as a whole. It would, whatever view one takes, have been quite wrong for Waldegrave to resign and the Government to remain.

That is not the case with the Attorney-General, since his particular

responsibility for the administration of justice is personal to him. He probably did mislead Michael Heseltine on the law on PFI certificates. Lord Justice Bingham, now Master of the Rolls, defends the Attorney-General's interpretation of his ruling in the Maqanola case. One must give weight to that. But his Maqanola ruling clearly states that there are exceptions to the principle that a minister must always sign a PFI certificate for appropriate documents. This does not mean that in any case where a party holds a document in a class prima facie immune he is bound to insist on an assertion of immunity. The Attorney-General told the President of the Board of Trade that he had no alternative in law but to sign. What the Master of the Rolls now says, that was wrong in terms of his own ruling.

Yet had legal advice, honestly given, not a resigning matter. What should be a resigning matter is Sir Nicholas Lyell's general maladministration of the prosecution, his failure to supervise it, his failure to see that the instructions to prosecuting counsel were properly drawn, his failure to pass on the President of the Board of Trade's reservations to the trial judge, as he had said he would do, his failure even to read Michael Heseltine's letter of September 11, 1992, for three or perhaps even seven weeks.

A wrongful prosecution was launched although a senior minister repeatedly demurred, a key letter was not even read; a promise was not kept. The Attorney-General treated this obviously difficult and sensitive prosecution as a routine matter, and negligently at that. Michael Heseltine's letter is discussed in paragraph G.13.70, on page 137 of the report. No one could read that paragraph and still maintain that Sir Nicholas Lyell reached an acceptable standard of diligence in the pursuit of justice in the Matrix Churchill prosecution. He should have resigned long ago.

William Rees-Mogg

the Attorney-General what to do in his legal capacity; he cannot order him to bring on prosecution or to drop another.

William Waldegrave was at the time Minister of State of the Foreign Office. The government policy on arms for Iraq, right or wrong, open or duplicitous, was not his personal policy. During the relevant period, there were two Prime Ministers, three Foreign Secretaries, several Secretaries of Trade and Secretaries of Defence. All of these were senior to him in Government, and the policy was undoubtedly a collective one. Sir Richard Scott's desire to hold individuals, even including civil servants,

New Labour's new face

Peter Riddell asks if Peter Mandelson's prospectus will satisfy voters



Mandelson explains in his book the meaning of "new" Labour, but still dodges some crucial questions

Tony Blair has succeeded more in defining what his "new" Labour Party is not than what it is. Most of his efforts have been about showing that Labour is no longer the party of high public spending and of the vested interests of the trade unions and minority groups. It is obviously vital for him to ensure that Labour does not lose in the same way as it did in 1987 and 1992. But his attempts to define a distinctive image for "new" Labour have so far been vague and less convincing.

The "young country" has come and, fortunately, gone. It always sounded like a pop group or a Third World nation. "One Nation socialism" remains, though it is elusive to most voters. The "stakeholder society" has become the slogan or big idea of 1996. Despite Labour's initial failure to make clear that this did not mean a big extension of union rights, the implication that everyone should have a stake in society has a popular appeal.

But Labour policymaking has often been about grudgingly accepting changes introduced by the Tories: council house sales, union ballots, privatisations, grant maintained schools and testing. Much of Labour policy has been described, with only slight exaggeration, as the Tories minus two years. "New" Labour is supposed to mean more than that. Gordon Brown has made proposals to encourage the long-term and youth unemployed back into work, and David Blunkett has talked about lifetime learning accounts for individuals. And there is also the whole constitutional reform programme. But there is a vacuum, or at any rate caution, in too many areas.

The Blair Revolution by Peter Mandelson (the Labour MP and adviser to Mr Blair) and Roger Liddle (a public policy analyst and former Liberal Democrat who rejoined Labour last summer) attempts to give coherence and substance to "new" Labour. Having discussed the book with the authors, I know that much of what has been said about it so far is nonsense. It is neither an "inside the Blair office" account, nor a proxy for the leader's secret plans. The misconceptions have arisen because of Mr Mandelson's closeness to Mr Blair and his reputation as a master manipulator. This has been an inhibiting factor. Although Mr Blair himself was keen for the book to be adventurous on policy, the authors felt constrained not to write anything that would embarrass their leader and give ammunition to either the

Labour Left or to Conservative Central Office. For example, they recognise many of the problems in Labour's far-reaching proposals for constitutional reform, but dodge the question of whether devolution will require a reduction in the number of powers of Scottish MPs. Similarly, while their pro-European views are clear, they are diplomatically cautious about a single currency.

Nonetheless, *The Blair Revolution* (published today by Faber at £7.99) is by far the fullest and most revealing discussion to date of where "new" Labour differs from "old". Its explicit statements and its hints together make it essential reading for anyone wanting to understand what Mr Blair is trying to do. This amounts to

a reconstruction of the Centre-Left, turning Labour into what Mr Blair has described as "literally a new party". One of the most interesting chapters is about this "new party". It recognises that Labour has failed in government in the past because of a breach with party activists. Blairism involves the creation of a mass party in which individual members, rather than unrepresentative groups of activists, have a say via ballots on major policy issues. Links between Labour and the unions would be transformed to emphasise the involvement of trade unionists as individual party members, rather than trade unions with their block votes. The authors also envisage closer co-operation with the Liberal Democrats. In a BBC interview yesterday, Mr Mandelson was warmer than previously about elec-

toral reform: not full-scale proportional representation, but the alternative vote. That will not be palatable to Labour traditionalists.

All this does not amount to just an SDF Mark II. The authors are fully aware of why the SDF failed. It was not merely because its electoral base was too narrow, but also because it failed to develop a coherent ideology through Mandelson and Liddle's analysis of the similarities between David Owen's ideas and Mr Blair's. "New Labour" attempts to blend a free-market ideology with social solidarity and national obligations. Mr Blair is trying to retain the support of Labour's core working-class supporters, which the SDF never attracted, while abandoning Labour's old class-based approach, to become a broader centre-left party.

So as to ensure that a Blairite programme can be implemented, the book suggests strengthening the Policy Unit and the political advice within 10 Downing Street, and making the Cabinet Office more like a Department of the Prime Minister. Success will, however, depend on realistic policies. The authors see the government's primary role as ensuring macro-economic stability, resisting demands for big pay rises and a public spending bonanza, and acting as a partner with the private sector in job creation and with parents in improving schools.

But perhaps the real question is not "Can New Labour Deliver?", as the book's subtitle asks, but "would it make a difference?" For all its caution on sensitive issues, the book points to where a Blair government might make a difference in dealing with the social costs and casualties of a more divided society. That will not satisfy those like Will Hutton, who argues in the new issue of *Prospect* that Mandelson and Liddle are reluctant to challenge the structure of market capitalism. But the book addresses the central issue for a Blair government: whether a competitive economy can be reconciled with social cohesion. It makes a powerful case for Blairism. "Old" Labour does not have an answer. The Tories need to produce one, soon.

House damned

FORGET Sir Richard Scott's multi-volume deliberation on arms sales to Iraq. An earlier Scott report was a concise, brutal condemnation of the Government, in far less equivocal language.

An intriguing letter has been uncovered from one Jonathan Scott to his brother Richard, the great-great-great-grandfather of Sir Richard Scott and a serving officer — later colonel — with the East India Company. It describes a visit to the Commons in 1786.

"My dearest Dick," Jonathan Scott begins. "I told you that I was at the House on Monday. It is a great scene at first, but when you have heard those who speak, declare things as truth which must be contrary to their Conviction and see the greater part by far of the members like so many Machines waiting (on both sides the question) in Silence for the Signal from the hand which is to put them in motion, the importance of the assembly ceases and you are led either to laugh at the farce before you or lament the imposition of the Nation... All Governments are in

some degree corrupt, but ours certainly more so than any under the sun..."

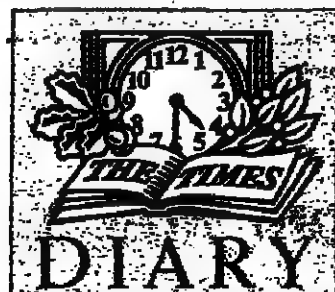
As Sir Richard laboured over his own report, a portrait of his namesake, recipient of the letter, gazed down on him from the wall of his Buckinghamshire home.

Should Rentokil's hostile bid for the business services group BET be successful, children across the country will be sitting down to school dinners provided by pest control experts.

Mocking stock

THE Princess of Wales is to be examined by a television psychoanalyst. As part of Channel 4's *Without Walls* series, she is to be put on the couch by Dylan Evans — who will talk to a lookalike of the Princess, but nevertheless promises new insights into the workings of her mind.

Psychoanalysing Diana, which is to be screened later this year, will feature dramatised recreations of



events in her life and will be based on previously documented statements by the Princess. Evans says crude accusations such as that Diana is paranoid are totally misconceived, but he offers an analysis which he hopes "will be of help to the real Diana."

In a separate stunt, impersonators of the Prince and Princess have been booked for an evening at the Café Royal later this year. A recreation of their post-wedding party will descend into acrimonious trading of insults for the amusement of tourists.

The singer Sinead O'Connor, always ready to save the world, is now trying to negotiate with the terrorists. In a letter to *The Irish Times* she exhorts the IRA to renounce vi-

olence. "Hand in all weapons," she advises. "Let the British Government have their elections and let the British tabloids say what they like. It doesn't matter if they say you've surrendered, so what? Who cares what they say? Or you, dear."

It's for you

GERALD KAUFMAN is spearheading a campaign to crack down on what he sees as the greatest blight on modern rail travel: mobile phones.

The former Shadow Foreign Secretary, who spends much of his life shunning between London and his Manchester constituency, has put down a question to the Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, asking for separate carriages for mobile phone users.

"The other day one guy was on his phone without a break all the way from Manchester to London," he says. "I couldn't move away because they were all around me, a whole nest of them. We should have environment impact papers, prepared and perhaps put them in carriages with the smokers."

did not have the most auspicious first day in his new job as marketing consultant for a Surrey-based firm last week. He astonished his new employers by arriving with a pair of black eyes after a tough weekend match.

Unswung hero

PETER SNOW has been brought to his knees by the vagaries of his famous swingometer. His treasured toy, which is cranked up on



Snow: sultan of swing

every general election night to indicate the progress as results come in, went haywire during the BBC's election dress-rehearsal over the weekend.

One of the scenarios in the biggest ever dummy-run was a 3 per cent swing to Labour in John Major's Huntingdon constituency. Somewhere a computer went into a spin and calculated instead, a 27 per cent swing and complete Tory meltdown. "The swingometer went bananas," says one observer. "Snow just couldn't help himself and fell to his knees laughing uncontrollably."

Paul Daniel, the new musical director of the financially troubled English National Opera, knows that he is expected to pull rabbits out of the hat. Fitting then that the bane of his life is to be forever confused with the smarmy magician Paul Daniels.

Not likely

IT WON'T be over until the thin lady sings. The distinctly well-cushioned Christopher Biggins is planning to collaborate on an opera with conceivably supermodel Jodie Kidd. Biggins is off to Barbados for



Kidd: would-be diva

a theatre and opera festival at the home of Jodie's parents. "I shall be directing Tosca and am trying to persuade Jodie to take a cameo role," he says. "With my glamour and her dramatic instinct we shouldn't go far wrong."

P.H.S



SCOTT VOTE

Tonight is the time to stand up for Parliament

Most Conservative backbenchers will be tempted to vote today as if they were Members of Government rather than Members of Parliament. Rarely will the distinction between the executive and the legislature have seemed so blurred as in tonight's vote on the findings of the Scott report. Despite Sir Richard's judgment that Parliament was misled and the rules of ministerial procedure broken, MPs will probably let their colleagues off the hook for one simple reason which has nothing to do with Scott: a general election is near.

So if the Scott report found an unusual level of cynicism within the executive, the vote on the subject may betray a similar level of cynicism in Parliament. Most Tory MPs are privately embarrassed by Sir Richard's findings. They are also piqued that the institution in which they represent their voters has been so disdainfully treated by ministers. But, despite their adherence to the notion of parliamentary sovereignty, all but a handful seem unprepared to take the action tonight that might force an arrogant executive to mend its ways.

Ministers have compounded their sins since the report was published. By claiming that Sir Richard totally exonerated them, they fooled nobody for more than a day. But it does take at least a day to read 1,800 pages of legalistic language. Ministers ensured that they were already halfway down the course by opening their own starting gates long before those of the Opposition, the media, or indeed their own backbenchers. Tory MPs are right to feel insulted, now that they have had time to catch up, when they realise how brazenly they were misled on the day of publication by their own Cabinet colleagues. They know too that any criticism shown in the House of Commons today will be as cynical as the chutzpah that dominated the initial response.

The Government's tactics have been

received as badly in the country as they have with Tory MPs. John Major allowed himself to be trapped by Tony Blair into determining in advance of the report that no minister would be allowed to resign. When Mr Blair stood by Harriet Harman, and compared his steadfastness with the Prime Minister's tendency to "buckle under pressure", Mr Major snapped up the bait.

Yet preventing a guilty minister from resigning is no sign of virility. Most voters see it as a sign of weakness. Had the Prime Minister allowed Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, to go on the first day, the quality of his Government would have been undiminished, but his stock with the public would have risen. At least he would have shown some humility, some admission that mistakes had been made. After a few days the flurry would have died down, and the only memory of the Scott report would have been that it claimed the career of a minister whose name few had known in the first place.

Instead the report is still a sore. The Government's reaction to it has demonstrated how cavalier it is with the truth and how little it cares not just about public opinion but also about the views of its own backbenchers. Only when one of them threatens to resign the whip is any notice taken of his discontent. The "loyalty" of others is taken for granted.

So if some Tory MPs feel tonight that their loyalty to the institution of Parliament ought to be greater than blind attachment to their party right or wrong, they deserve an accolade. Those brave Members who go against the whip will be casting a vote for honest government, for ministerial accountability and for the acceptance of responsibility for mistakes. If their votes tip the Government into defeat, they can always reaffirm their party bonds tomorrow. But tonight is a time for defending parliamentary sovereignty and good governance.

BOMB LAW

Terror must not stop the peace process in Israel and Palestine

The death toll from the two bombs in Jerusalem and Ashkelon brings the number of people killed by Islamic militants since the signing of Israel's peace treaty with the Palestinians to nearly 80. If this is the harvest of peace, what was the point? That is the understandably emotional first reaction from an angry and divided nation. It is precisely the reaction the suicide bombers anticipated. Like the IRA, the enemies of negotiation are attempting to make compromise impossible. Rather than settle for less than the triumphant fulfilment of all their claims, they are ready to use indiscriminate terror to harden positions on both sides.

As in Northern Ireland, the renewal of violence when peace was within grasp is a sign of frustration and desperation. The Hamas rejectionists do not command the support their propaganda claimed, as was evident from the failure of their call for a boycott of the recent Palestinian elections. Bombs are their only answer.

The killings will indeed produce, in the short term, the despair and impasse that the bombers intended. Shimon Peres has frozen all further talks with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. His Government, surging into early elections on the crest of a 20-point lead over the Likud opposition, will come under ferocious attack. The sympathy vote Labour has enjoyed since the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin will be dissipated, along with the cloud of public revulsion that has linked the Israeli Right to the murderous aims of rejectionist zealots. Mr Peres may defiantly proclaim that terror will not stop the peace process. But to save his credibility, he must accede to the clamour that Mr Arafat impose virtual martial law in the

areas his fledgling Authority nominally controls. He may even be forced back to the revenge tactics so favoured by previous Israeli Governments: the collective punishment of the occupied territories by sealing their borders, or air strikes on Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

The bombs were directed as much against Mr Arafat as Mr Peres. The PLO leader already has many enemies and dwindling room for manoeuvre. Hamas may have been outwitted in the election campaign, but it can draw on widespread Palestinian discontent. Despite a boom in construction and the rewarding of Arafat loyalists with hundreds of sinecures, unemployment is certainly more than 30 per cent, with up to 25,000 new workers coming into the market each year.

The bombs will increase tension, but also the stakes for both men. To boost his election campaign, Mr Peres needs to show that the Palestinian mainstream is irrevocably committed to peace and will by rescind those sections of the Palestine National Charter — the nearest thing to a PLO constitution — calling for the destruction of the Jewish state. Mr Arafat, though committed to summoning the Palestine National Council for this purpose within weeks, is already playing for time: he cannot persuade doubters to give away their trump card without prior assurances that Israel will withdraw from Hebron, the last main town under occupation, and begin the final status talks on Palestinian autonomy on time. The bombings have made it harder for each man to reach out to the other; but they have increased the dependence of both on the survival of the peace process.

THE JOKE IS IN THE POST

Perforated, sticky, and now funny too

Today the Royal Mail issues a set of First Class stamps reproducing in millions miniature pocket cartoons beside the profile of the Queen. Also today *The Times* and the British Cartoonists' Association will announce the first winners of their competition to select the young cartoonists of the year. This is a happy coincidence, for cartoons and postage stamps are endearingly compatible miniature British art forms.

The original cartoon (large sheets of paper) were preliminary drawings by such Italian artists as Leonardo and Raphael. And caricatures also take their name from another Italian, Annibale Carracci. But the art of making fun of society and the famous in rude drawings is a British invention. The Prince of Wales has written correctly that his family and other modern celebrities are more politely treated by cartoonists than were George III and his family and ministers. Hogarth, Gillray, Rowlandson and the other founding fathers of the cartooning art were libellous, bawdy and vicious as well as impudent. They turned to their trade as very young cartoonists indeed, to escape from family poverty and traditional careers. And they left a better record of Georgian manners and politics than their more respectable contemporaries.

The first sale of adhesive postage stamps was recorded in England on May 1, 1840. And in the following year the earliest reference to stamp collecting was made in a third native miniature medium, the Agony Column. A small advertisement was placed

in *The Times* by "a young lady being desirous of covering her dressing-room with cancelled postage stamps".

From those early days the numbers and varieties of stamps have increased by so many thousandfolds that Philatelic Man can no longer collect the stamps of all nations and all periods. He has to specialise. Stamp collecting introduces the young imagination to art, geography, economics and national symbolism. It also challenges adults asked to locate Vanuatu and San Marino. As international advertisements, obscure countries issue majestic stamps that cost far more to produce than their face value of a kopek or a lek. By another inverse peculiarity of the stamp trade, the value of a postage stamp fluctuates widely from its hypothetical catalogue price depending on whether it is being sold or bought by a dealer.

So from tomorrow these cartoon stamps will deliver a smile with the morning post, along with the dread of the brown envelope and the irritation of unsolicited financial advice. Mel Calman and his fellows will have a wider audience for their work than all previous cartoonists seen together. But what will addressers in China and Peru make of their angst-ridden little men in a hostile world? They should at least catch the eternal complaint of the cartoonist about the cheque in the post whirling in outer space. And our young cartoonists chosen in memory of Calman, can calculate that if they capture the spirit of the age, they too can one day get their work on a postage stamp.

Attorney's view of arms prosecution

From Sir Nicholas Lyell, Attorney-General

Sir, Your leader on February 24 ("The bad Attorney") contains inaccuracies which I cannot leave uncorrected. It was perhaps influenced by Lord Hutchinson's selective and misleading letter (February 23) from the Opposition benches.

Nowhere in the five-volume Scott report is there any suggestion that I should have intervened to stop the Matrix Churchill trial. Lord Hutchinson is mistaken in saying that I have superintended all prosecutions. Customs, unlike the Crown Prosecution Service and Serious Fraud Office, is not a prosecuting authority which I superintend.

Despite this, as soon as Michael Heseltine's concerns were brought to my attention, I immediately called a meeting with Alan Moses, QC, the highly experienced prosecuting counsel, and the Customs solicitor to be assured that the prosecution was indeed fair and proper.

My advice to Mr Heseltine was correct and my view of the law has been endorsed by the Master of the Rolls and by many lawyers writing in your columns (letters, February 17, 19, 21-24). The specially redrafted PII certificate prepared for Mr Heseltine emphasised that the decision on disclosure of documents was for the court. It worked as intended.

Mr Heseltine's short letter thanking me for my advice was not "left unread". It was read in my absence by the relevant official and immediately passed to the Treasury Solicitor's Department responsible for briefing Mr Moses. Your suggestion that I was "happy to allow" disclosure of Secret Intelligence Service evidence is wrong. This was not a matter on which I advised at all.

There are lessons to be learnt from the report but it is wrong that the underlying facts should become distorted in comment.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS LYTELL,
Attorney-General's Chambers,
9 Buckingham Gate, SW1,
February 25.

From Mr Gwyn Walker

Sir, Roy Amlot and Julian Bevan (letter, February 21) argue the truism that if a minister feels the public interest is prejudiced by production of documents then he is under a duty to sign a PII certificate. Surely where the Attorney-General went wrong is that he seems to have advised ministers that they were under a duty to sign even if, like Mr Heseltine, they felt that public interest would be better served by disclosure rather than suppression.

Yours faithfully,
GEYNE WALKER
(Prospective Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate for Penrith and the Border),
The Old Vicarage, Barton,
Tirril, Penrith, Cumbria,
February 21.

From Mr John D. Harris

Sir, Lord Carrington's careful and decent sentiments (letter, February 22) may well have applied in the early 1980s. Sadly, confidence in government ministers has been severely eroded since his time. There is now little or no inclination to give them the benefit of the doubt.

Yours etc,
JOHN HARRIS,
Chilland Barn,
Marryst Worthy,
Winchester, Hampshire,
February 22.

From Mrs Audrey Gardner

Sir, John Major has thrown away his chance to be a "good butcher" — and with it, I think, any chance of winning the next general election.

Yours faithfully,
A. GARDNER,
Mortcombe, Cherry Bridge,
Barbrook, Lynton, North Devon,
February 21.

Missing mural

From Mr John Morton

Sir, Illustrating your report of February 19 on the Royal College of Art is a photograph of the "Lion and Unicorn" pavilion at the 1951 Festival of Britain exhibition. I was assistant to the pavilion's architects, Dick Russell and Robert Gooden.

The end wall of that pavilion was a mural, *Country Life*, by Edward Bawden; 25ft wide and 30ft high. It was one of four works of art in the exhibition which the Arts Council decided should be kept after the exhibition closed. The mural's 71 panels went to the Ministry of Works store at Berry Road, Willesden, London, in March 1952, and racking and covers were provided in 1954 for their long-term storage.

The Department of the Environment sold the store in 1974. I believe, but there is no information on what happened to the contents. I wonder if anyone knows?

Yours etc,
JOHN MORTON,
655 Barrowgate Road, Chiswick, W4,
February 20.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Pennington Street, London E1 9EN Telephone 0171-782 5000)

New inquiry into higher education

From the Chief Executive, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals

Sir, Your leader, "University challenge" (February 21), analysed the options facing Sir Ron Dearing as he prepares his inquiry into higher education.

Contrary to your assertion, the recent massive expansion has been achieved without any perceptible relaxation of entrance requirements. Analysis by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) shows this clearly. The explanation is that before the expansion many young people, notably young women, left full-time education for work. Despite being well qualified to enter university they chose not to do so.

It has not been necessary to "dilute degree standards" as you suggest, nor would it be countenanced. The young people we are now educating to degree level would have been a credit to any university at any time, but more of them now have higher aspirations than in the past.

That is something to be applauded and encouraged. We hope Sir Ron will recognise the fact.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA WARWICK,
Vice-Chancellor,
Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom,
29 Tavistock Square, WCI,
February 21.

From Dr Margaret Atkins

Sir, The Government is asking about "the purpose of a degree". What a pity it did not think to ask that question before overseeing the collective chaos caused in recent years by "modularisation", "semesterisation", the introduction of continuous assessment, "research assessment exercises", "teaching assessment", "quality audit" and rapidly increasing numbers of students.

Those of us who already had a clear understanding of the purpose of education and who have been struggling to keep teaching and scholarship alive may be forgiven for feeling puzzled. We had thought the politicians and bureaucrats at least thought they knew what they were doing.

Yours sincerely,
MARGARET ATKINS,
University of Leeds,
Trinity and All Saints College,
Brownberry Lane,
Horsforth, Leeds, West Yorkshire,
February 23.

From the Vice-Chancellor,
Nottingham Trent University

Sir, The greatest service the Dearing committee of inquiry can perform is to move quickly to develop a vision of higher education neither as a cure for

all economic ills nor as "outdoor relief" for middle-class children.

It must, of course, address issues of funding and student maintenance in a context of other economic priorities. However, these issues will fall naturally into place if the committee can develop a convincing account of the collaborative role of universities within a competitive economy intent on equipping its people — not necessarily or exclusively through formal study — for a lifetime of learning.

Your leading article refers to problems associated with "large-scale lecturing" and a reduction in seminars and tutorials.

The other side of the coin is the development of imaginative and cost-effective approaches to teaching, learning and assessment; increasing use of learning technologies; greater involvement of employers and students in developing flexible and responsive courses; partnerships between universities and business in lifelong learning and updating; and the growth of contract and problem-oriented research.

Yours faithfully,
RAY COWELL,
Vice-Chancellor,
The Nottingham Trent University,
Burton Street,
Nottingham NG1 4BU,
February 21.

From the Pro Vice-Chancellor of
De Montfort University, Leicester

Sir, Isn't there a flaw in *The Times's* contribution to the higher education debate? To suggest a higher education super league is to run the risk of abrogating intellectual and social responsibility.

The expansion in higher education did not just happen as a matter of governmental whim. It was necessary to meet the demands made in the shift of the country's economic base from manufacturing to service industries.

This demanded a more highly educated workforce. Yet the expansion occurred at a time when the GDP was at the best static. The result was a challenge to the universities for greater efficiency in financial, administrative and academic management.

There was also a necessary requirement for a diversity of mission amongst the universities, which continues to exist. Within it excellence has to be defined in accordance to stated aims and purpose. Merely to envisage distinctive funding for one important aspect within that diversity is to ignore the fundamental requirement of the sector as a whole.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SCOTT,
Pro Vice-Chancellor,
De Montfort University,
The Gateway, Leicester, LE1 9BH,
February 23.

Scope for corruption in arms trade

From the Chairman of Transparency International (UK)

Sir, It would be unfortunate if those aspects of the arms trade which are covered by the Scott report were allowed to obscure another major problem which was not part of Sir Richard's brief, namely the extent of the corruption which is involved in "defence sales".

Transparency International, a Berlin-based coalition against corruption in international business transactions, formed in 1993, is not opposed to military supplies *per se*; nor does it seek to see any exporting country disadvantaged in relation to any other. It is, however, deeply concerned at the huge commissions which are commonly attached to these sales, the size and secrecy of which makes them an ideal vehicle for grand corruption.

Informed opinion estimates such commissions at an average of 15 per cent on annual global sales of some \$45 billion, about two thirds of which are to developing countries. Most of this money benefits political and military decision-makers in the buy-

ing countries, although a small proportion is commonly kicked back to the negotiators of the supplying companies.

It will not be easy for exporting countries to beat swords into ploughshares, but it is in fact the modern equivalent of ploughshares that most developing countries need. Their apparent preference for swords is too often based not on any rational decisions about priorities but on the financial benefits to be received by their leaders.

Multilateral implementation of the OECD's 1994 recommendation on illicit payments in international business transactions, in the negotiation of which the British Government played a creditable part, would go far towards reducing this tremendously damaging trade.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE MOODY-STUART,
Chairman,
Transparency International (UK),
Annex, 11 Woodfield Lane,
Ashford, Surrey,
February 22.

Juries and justice

From His Honour Peter Mason, QC

Sir, I agree with Judge Peter Smith (letter, February 22) that concealing the truth from a jury about a defendant's criminal record is not necessarily fair as English law supposes. The law of most European countries requires no such concealment.

It is also my experience over many years in the criminal courts that a jury is as likely to acquit a defendant after hearing of his criminal convictions as when these are concealed. The rationale seems to be, "the police had it in for this person; we must give him [or her] a chance".

Educated jurors now know that if no mention is made in court of a defendant's good character he has a bad one. Can it be fair to him that they should speculate as to what his previous convictions were, how many there were, and how bad?

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASON,
11 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,
February 22.

From Mr Graham Chainey

Sir, Dr Nick Fox (letter, February 19) complains that jurors can claim only £45 maximum remuneration per day. When I last did jury service about five years ago I received, as suggested not

currently working, no remuneration except a meagre subsistence allowance to cover fares.

It seemed unjust that two jurors could sit next to one another in the jury box, doing the same work, one being paid the maximum and the other nothing.

Such inequalities exacerbate one's resentment at the process of compulsory jury service. If you failed to attend you could be fined £100 per day. Disaffected jurors are unlikely to be good jurors.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM CHAINEY,
35 The Albemarle,
Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex,
February 19.

From Mr Giles Curtis-Raleigh

Sir, Dr Nick Fox writes that "£45 per day is only 10-20 per cent of a normal professional fee. Would the lawyers attend for this?"

The short answer is yes, we do, almost. The standard appearance fee for a barrister in the Crown Court, payable for the majority of legal aid hearings, is £45.75 plus VAT. Dr Fox is certainly right that this is only a fraction of what we deserve.

Yours faithfully,
GILES CURTIS-RALEIGH,
4 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4,
February 19.

Small papers fear for the future

From the Editor of Tribune

Sir, From the beginning of March, the retail newsagent giant, W. H. Smith, will drop 300 small publications, including *Tribune*, from its news shelves. Instead readers will have to make do with a publication-ordering service. Casual sales will cease as diversity and choice are restricted.

John Menzies is set to follow that lead by removing small publications from selected stores for a trial period.

The news trade is shocked by the extent of the "delisting" of so many titles; so are we. *Tribune* learnt of its fate by chance after the decision had been made. In the long run, we, along with the hundreds of other small publications, face being forced out of the news trade altogether.

The decision taken by W. H. Smith is based on what looks like a mistaken belief that it can compete with new outlets such as supermarkets and petrol stations, which offer a very limited selection of titles. I hope the news shelves of the future will not grow under the weight of computer and pornographic magazines, heralding the final triumph of market forces.

That there has been so little outcry can be put down to the fact that W. H. Smith and the distribution companies that supply it have thus far refused to release to us the full list of publications to be affected. However, it seems to me that other left-wing titles may be threatened, unlike for instance *The Economist* or *The Spectator*. But then an election is not very far away, is it?

Yours sincerely,
MARK SEDDON, Editor,
Tribune,
308 Gray's Inn Road, WCI,
February 23.

Lenten message

From the Reverend Charles J. Hall

Sir, Your Ash Wednesday leading article, "From Lent to new life", was most refreshing: simple, undomesticated and pertinent to a world where the God framework seems to be crumbling so rapidly.

Anyway, I quoted from it today at my local borough council where, as mayor's chaplain, I was leading the council in prayer at the start of their meeting, believing that your reputation for fairness could cause no possible offence in a borough that has swung from one extreme to the other.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HALL,
The Vicarage,
61 Church Street,
Stapleford, Nottingham,
February 22.

Arnhem hero

From Mr Donald F. Cooper

Sir, You refer to the possibility that the Burslem-born Lance-Sergeant, Jack Baskfield, will become "one of the few common soldiers to be commemorated by a statue" (News in brief, February 16).

Having been awarded the Victoria Cross, Baskfield — a glider-borne member of the South Staffordshires, by the way, not a paratrooper — was hardly a "common" soldier; indeed, he was a remarkably uncommon one. There were no "common" soldiers fighting at Arnhem.

Yours truly,
DONALD F. COOPER,
Westridge, Elm Lane, Well End,
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire,
February 16.

Banking problems

From Mr John Dibblee

Sir, Mr Barnaby Osborne, as a red/green colour-blind person, has obvious difficulty with bottle banks (letter, February 21). If he has help at home to sort the bottles into separate bags, he only has to follow these simple rules to be as accurate as most of us: the green bin is the full one and the brown, the empty.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN DIBBLEE,
43 Cross Lane, Cublington,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire,
February 21.

From Mr F. N. Walker

Sir, If Mr Osborne will look at his empty bottles through rose-tinted glasses the clear ones will appear clear, the green ones as black, and the brown as muddy.

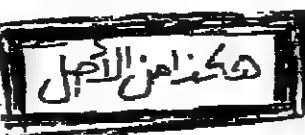
Yours faithfully,
FRANK WALKER,
56 Theydon Grove, Epping, Essex,
February 22.

Albanian myths?

From Mr Peter Cuming

Sir, If your assertion (leading article, February 23) that Albania had only 40 lorries in 1991 is correct, I wish to claim a record for having personally witnessed 10 per cent of that nation's 1991 lorry fleet being involved in accidents in one week. As at the time I was travelling in one of Albania's private cars, which you suggest did not exist, I suppose my claim could be disallowed.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CUMING,
34 Savernake Road, NW3,
February 23.



OBITUARIES

NIAL MacDERMOT

Niall MacDermot, CBE, QC, former Labour MP, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, 1964-67, and Secretary-General of the International Commission of Jurists, 1970-90, died in Geneva on February 22 aged 79. He was born in Dublin on September 10, 1916.

NIAL MacDERMOT'S active career in British politics lasted only just over a decade. But, for both overt and covert reasons, it was a good deal more intriguing than most. He was a rising barrister with a distinguished wartime record behind him when he was first elected to the House of Commons in 1957.

At the beginning of the war he had been commissioned into the Intelligence Corps and rose rapidly to the rank of lieutenant-colonel at the age of 26. General Montgomery appointed him GSOI at HQ 21 Army Group in preparation for the Normandy landings. As the war came to an end, it was his responsibility to track down top Nazis. His incisive interrogation of Goebbels foreshadowed his future legal career.

He was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple and was pupil to the then Treasury devil, Hubert Parker. He became a tenant in the burgeoning Common Law chambers of Ronald Armstrong-Jones. He joined the Molland circuit and quickly acquired a large London and circuit practice.

He was a most gifted and accomplished advocate. He had a commanding presence, handsome looks, a supple voice and a patrician but courteous manner. He was a first-class lawyer with a quick, objective and analytical mind. This made him an excellent pupil-master. He taught by example the value of preparation, the skill of argument and the art of how to carry, and not confront, the court. He took silk in 1963.

By then he was already a Member of Parliament, for the second time round. Originally elected for Lewisham North in February 1957, he lost the seat to Christopher Chataway at the general election of October 1959. But he was plainly regarded as something of a catch — he had joined the Labour Party only in 1956 — and in 1962 he won another by-election at Derby North. He was from the Fabian, moderate tradition and would have approved of New Labour. He made a rapid mark in debate, especially after his second by-election victory.

No one was surprised when, at James Callaghan's instigation, Harold Wilson included him in his first 1964 Government as Financial Secretary to the Treasury. This is normally seen as a jumping-off post for high-flyers. Yet when promotion finally came for MacDermot nearly three years later, it



was only in a sideways move to be a Minister of State at the Department of Housing and Local Government. Just 12 months later he resigned from the Government citing "personal reasons" — and in the 1970 general election did not stand again. For the last 25 years of his life it was almost as if his career in British politics had never been.

There was, in fact, an explanation both for his relatively late entry into British political life and for his somewhat abrupt departure from it. The son of an Irish KC practising in the Dublin courts, Niall MacDermot was sent to school at Rugby and then, unusually, attended first Cambridge University, where he read modern languages, and then Oxford, where he studied law.

It was while up at Balliol that the first misfortune of his career overtook him. In the course of a quarrel with a fellow-undergraduate he pushed him, causing him to fall. As ill-luck would have it, the student concerned suffered from a heart condition and instantly died. The young MacDermot had to

endure the full formality of a manslaughter trial, at the end of which he was acquitted without the jury even retiring. It still seems likely, however, that the whole experience left a scar which deterred him from seeking a public career, at least until the memory of it had grown less raw.

The second factor — accounting for his peremptory departure from politics — again had its origins in something that occurred well before he entered Parliament. In 1954 MacDermot, who had been married for 14 years, met and fell in love with a half-Russian, half-Italian language student who was to become a translator at the United Nations in Geneva. They maintained an intermittent relationship for ten years before, with the son of his marriage then grown up, MacDermot asked his doctor-wife for a divorce.

She agreed to, and in August 1966 in Geneva he married Ludmila Benvenuto — though not without giving Harold Wilson as Prime Minister advance warning of his intentions. Wilson pretended not to be bothered

— telling MacDermot "There'll be talk, but never mind, it'll be a nine-day wonder" — but evidence has since surfaced that he took MacDermot's statement of intent a good deal more seriously than that. Certainly, before the marriage even took place, he was telling his confidant Dick Crossman that their colleague's ministerial life was over and that he would be leaving the Commons "within 12 months". (Presumably fear of a by-election, as Labour grew progressively more unpopular, prevented this from happening.)

Eventually it was MIS that forced the issue. Towards the end of 1967 they informed that they wished to talk to MacDermot's second wife and, having grilled her in the Defence Ministry for an entire week in February 1968, let No 10 know that they were not wholly satisfied with all her answers. Always a pushover for "spooks", Wilson's response was, rather tactlessly, to inquire of MacDermot as to whether he had ever told his wife "any confidential information".

MacDermot found this woundingly insulting and he resolved there and then that he had no future in politics. Within a matter of months he had resigned his job at the Ministry of Housing and announced his intention of leaving the Commons at the next election.

At first he returned more or less full-time to the Bar. His last major brief was on behalf of the Wing Airport Resistance Association before the Roskill Commission Inquiry into the Third London Airport. If he had stayed at the Bar, appointment to the High Court Bench would have been assured.

As it was, he preferred to go and live abroad. In 1970 his appointment was announced as Secretary-General to the International Commission of Jurists based in Geneva, a post he filled with distinction for the next 20 years. He combined his deep commitment to the rule of law and human rights with his skill as a lawyer and a politician. In 1980 the Council of Europe awarded the Commission the first-ever Prize in Human Rights; this was followed by the Waterloo Prize and, in 1989, by the Erasmus Prize. MacDermot was jointly responsible with Jean-Jacques Gautier for establishing the Association for the Prevention of Torture.

But he did not entirely cut his links with Britain. He took delight in his trusteeship of the Tate Gallery, which he served until 1976, and was very touched in 1991 when he was awarded an OBE — to which he had been appointed in the military division for his wartime role — to CBE for his services to international justice.

He is survived by his second wife, Ludmila, and by the son of his first marriage.

MIKE WOOLLER

Mike Wooller, television producer, died on February 23 aged 69. He was born on January 17, 1927.



IN THE golden early years of British broadcasting, Michael Wooller played an influential role as director of studio-based television current affairs programmes, and as a producer of documentaries. He made good programmes himself, and created space for others to do so.

Born in Lancashire, Michael Herford Wooller excelled at sports at school, promising at one point to emulate the achievements of his uncle, Wilf Wooller, at rugby. He worked as a radio studio manager for the BBC, and in Forces Broadcasting serving in Palestine. In 1953 he returned to the BBC as a cameraman, when he met his wife Joyce, a transmission controller. Together in 1956, they went to work for Granada, then preparing to begin broadcasting (with a tribute to the BBC) in Manchester.

Wooller soon became a director, calling the shots in the studio gallery when virtually all television was live, particularly at Granada, where Sidney Bernstein was determined to postpone the introduction of film and, when it arrived, videotape, as long as he could. Directing live television called for a grasp of angles, of visual possibilities, a sense of timing, a quick eye, a cool head, and a commanding manner.

Wooller had all that and more. Under his direction, even so simple a programme as *What the Papers Say* could be transformed into a minor masterpiece, with up to 120 cuts in only 12 minutes.

Wooller would have made a brilliant interior designer. For *Searchlight*, produced by Tim Hewat, a programme that made a statement, he devised a new, almost tabloid, visual style that influenced much that came after it. Instead of a crowded, lit studio in which every image had equal weight, Wooller kept the background dark and used light to con-

centrate the viewer's eye either on the presenter or on a blow-up beside him. This was the TV equivalent of the picture across five newspaper columns, or the headline in bold black type on the front page.

These programmes, apolitical but always crusading, shook viewers, as they were intended to do. The deputy director-general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority told the *Searchlight* production team that every single programme in the first series had infringed the Broadcasting Act, with the possible exception of a programme on cruelty to children. "And even then," he added, "I am not sure you should not have said somewhere that cruelty to children is a good thing." (The Broadcasting Act has since been amended.)

Wooller made the transition from directing texts to producing, and instantly found a new métier. Here, his judgment and basic integrity made themselves felt, and provided rock-solid support for others. With Michael Darlow, he made the Granada prize-winning triptych *Cities at War*.

He was invited back, at that time a high compliment, to the BBC. Working for the Music and Arts Department, he took charge of *All in a Day and Omnibus*. No one did this last better.

Under him fine documentaries — Geoffrey Baines, Leslie

Megahey, Colin Nears and Tristram Powell — did some of their best work. Although their boss, he never tried to make their films for them but was always supportive; he criticised when a response could still prove fruitful. He gave them freedom to explore; they did the rest.

BBC Television could have enlarged his responsibilities, but did not. Wooller went to the Thames documentary department. Here he acted as executive producer of *Hollywood*, a 13-part series by Kevin Brownlow and David Gill on the early years of American cinema. Typically, when it was urgently necessary to spend money on interviewing octogenarian pioneers with one foot in the grave, before the studios had agreed to make rights available in even a foot of film, he took the bold decision to press ahead. In the end he got the rights, the series triumphed, and his leadership was vindicated.

Wooller became managing director of Goldcrest Television, an independent producer. For them he oversaw the making of a glossy successful mini-series *The Far Pavilions* and other television series. But Goldcrest, over-ambitious, went in for major feature films — a policy which some four years on was virtually to sink the company. Finally for Granada Film Productions, Wooller supervised the making, in three years, of four feature films, including David Hare's *Strapless* and the ambitious documentary series *Man and Music*.

Wooller's innate fairness and friendliness made him the most acceptable of colleagues. His qualities commended him across the industry. He served on the Council of the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) and was Chairman from 1979 to 1981. He loved music, gardening and cooking, at which he excelled. He was a generous friend.

He is survived by his wife Joyce, whom he married in 1953.

PROFESSOR BRIAN HOGAN

Brian Hogan, Professor of Common Law, University of Leeds, 1967-94, died of pneumonia on February 9 aged 63. He was born on May 4, 1932.



IN *R v Shivpuri* the House of Lords had to deal with the effect of the Criminal Attempts Act 1981 on one of those eternal conundrums of the law, "attempting the impossible". Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, confessed to some disquiet about embarking upon an examination of an area that had produced a "joust of almost unexampled ferocity between two of the most distinguished professors of criminal law in the kingdom". One of the jousters in this tournament was Clive Williams, the other was Brian Hogan. Opinions may differ about criminal attempts but few would deny the correctness of Lord Hailsham's assessment of the status of the protagonists.

Brian Hogan was born the son of a police officer in the North East. He claimed that at school he had shown ability only in geometry but had managed to acquire his School Certificate in Latin which in those days provided the passport to university entry. Graduating with first-class honours in law from Manchester in 1956, after completing his National Service he took up a post as a temporary assistant lecturer at the University of Nottingham.

At that time it was possible to study for the Bar in one's own time and Hogan entered Gray's Inn and was called in 1959. While still a lecturer at Nottingham he was appointed to the Chair of Common Law at Leeds in 1967. There he

remained until he retired in 1994. He was head of the department of law three times and from 1974 to 1976 was chairman of the Board of Arts, Economic and Social Studies and Law. As the (sole) Pro-Vice-Chancellor from 1981 to 1983, his tenure coincided with the death of Lord Boyle and the first serious test of financial cuts.

Crisis management and planning had then not yet become a way of life in tertiary education and Hogan found himself confronted for the first time with the harsh fact that budgets would have to be cut and staff shed if the university was going to remain afloat. With the help of the acting Vice-Chancellor, William Walsh, Hogan succeeded in doing, both, quickly but humanely.

From 1966 to 1972, Hogan was editor of the leading specialist journal the *Criminal Law Review*. Together with John (now Sir John) Smith he worked on the book *Criminal Law*, which went into seven editions and is probably

unique in the English and Commonwealth jurisdictions in that it has remained the leading academic textbook and at the same time has exercised a considerable influence on the decisions of the courts. He also co-authored, again with John Smith, five editions of *Cases and Materials on Criminal Law*.

But Hogan's range was much wider than criminal law. Although he was uncompromising in what he demanded (he belonged to a generation which did not see this as problematical in a university), he was an excellent teacher able to represent ideas in a manner that could be grasped by the weaker pupils while at the same time offering something that would stretch the top 20 per cent of the class. Towards the end of his career he participated, albeit with some reluctance, in the national assessment of teaching quality, a process which he found to be seriously flawed in both design and execution.

Although Hogan liked to cultivate an image somewhere to the right of Genghis Khan, he was in fact a liberal (with a small "l") and would take great pains to further causes in which he believed. However, though he became heavily involved in administrative matters at Leeds, he was never likely to be attracted to administration as a career. He was too forthright to be all things to all men and his boredom threshold was too low for the grinding tedium of much of the paper generated by the academic system in recent years.

Brian Hogan is survived by his wife Pauline, and their son and daughter.

HENRY LEWIS

Henry Lewis, conductor and music director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, 1968-76, died of a heart attack in New York on January 26 aged 63. He was born in Los Angeles on October 16, 1932.



CHARISMATIC and with a conductor's natural flair for command, Henry Lewis was one of the first black Americans to break down racial barriers in the world of classical music. He was the first black to conduct a world-class orchestra, the first to become music director of a major orchestra, and the first to conduct the Metropolitan Opera in New York.

Shaping the scores with a confident dramatic hand, Lewis led with a persuasive passion. In the course of a 47-year career, almost every major American orchestra — including the Chicago Symphony, the San Francisco Symphony and the New York Philharmonic — performed under his baton. He also made regular guest appearances in Britain with, among others, the London Symphony, the BBC Scottish Symphony and the Royal Philharmonic orchestras.

Though he showed great technical command, Lewis was particularly known — and sometimes criticised — for his at times casual attitude on the podium. He would talk to the audience, inviting them to applaud if they wished at the end of some dramatic movement. "I'm not a believer in the old-fashioned attitude of a conductor and orchestra playing for themselves and letting the audience listen as a kind of favour," he once said.

His concern was to make classical music accessible to as wide a range of people as possible. As conductor and director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra he out-

fronted the censure of fellow Afro-Americans who accused him of trying to purvey "white" music to black people and travelled with his company to ghettos, town halls and parks, playing to audiences who were often completely unfamiliar with a classical repertoire.

Lewis's musical talents had surfaced at an early age. His mother, a nurse, first sat him down at the piano at the age of five and though his father, a car dealer, hoped that his son

would follow a "respectable profession", the young Henry showed more artistic aspirations and at junior high school leapt at the opportunity to learn the double bass.

By the age of 16 he was a virtuoso and was invited to join the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra — as not only the youngest player, but also the first black ever to join. "I had to accept that I had to be better than the next guy and take a few risks. But I realised that I would benefit from it and did not regret it," Lewis later said.

In 1954 he was drafted into the US Army — though even here he maintained his interest in music, conducting the Seventh Army Symphony Orchestra in Stuttgart. On discharge he immediately returned to the Los Angeles Philharmonic with which in 1960 he made his conducting debut. A year later he made his operatic conducting debut with the San Francisco Opera's production of *La Bohème*. He also founded the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra and further strengthened an already weighty reputation as a guest conductor working with orchestras all over America.

At the age of 36 Lewis made national headlines when he beat stiff competition to become the conductor and music director of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. His was a colourful, indeed tempestuous, tenure. He recruited the highest calibre professionals, building the orchestra up

into a first-class company with an impressively expansive repertoire. However, Lewis, in his search for perfection, could be tyrannical and intimidating. During a three-week strike a negotiating committee for the orchestra actually sought a contract clause stipulating that he should refrain from frowning during rehearsals and concerts. This clause was never drawn up, though, for Lewis resigned.

Despite worsening lung cancer he continued to work for many years as a guest conductor for major orchestras in America and Europe. He conducted New York's Metropolitan Opera on its 1975 tour of Japan. He served in his later years as music director of the Opera-Musica Theatre Institute of New Jersey and of The Netherlands Radio Orchestra and in 1991 he was the music director for the London production of *Carmen Jones* at the Old Vic. He was also in great demand as a vocal coach.

On the night of his death the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra dedicated its concert to Lewis. The first piece of the evening, the prelude from Wagner's *Parsifal*, had last been performed by the orchestra under Lewis's baton.

Lewis married, in 1960, the mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, with whom he often appeared. Though the marriage ended in divorce in 1979, they remained close friends and continued to perform together. He is survived by their daughter.

King Leopold's accession to the throne of Belgium was a significant event in European history. The ceremony took place in Brussels on July 21, 1909. The King was crowned by the Archbishop of Mechelen. The ceremony was attended by many European monarchs and dignitaries.

The King's reign was marked by his efforts to modernize Belgium and his role in the First World War. He was known for his strict adherence to the constitution and his commitment to the welfare of his subjects.

King Leopold's death on July 23, 1909, was a significant event in Belgian history. He was succeeded by his son, King Albert I. The King's legacy is remembered for his contributions to Belgium's development and his role in the world war.

Church appointments

The Rev John Hilton, Vicar, Orford St Andrew (Liverpool); to be Vicar, Leeds St Wilfrid, Harehills (Ripon). The Rev Donald Jones, Team Vicar, East Ham w Upton Park and Beckton (Chelmsford); to be Vicar, Nuneham (Coventry). The Rev Geoffrey Keating, Vicar, Penpods (Truro); to be Vicar, Peterborough St Jude (Peterborough). The Rev Robert Lunn, Vicar, All Saints, Orpington (Rochester); to be also an Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral. The Rev Simon Moor, Curate, Slogness and Winthorpe (Lincoln); to be Assistant Curate, Holy Cross, Airedale (Wakefield). The Rev Brian Morris, Assistant Curate, St Peter and St Mary, Hayling Island, in

charge of St Andrew Conventual District; to be Priest-in-charge, St Michael, Shalfleet and All Saints, Calbourne w Holy Spirit, Newtown, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth). The Rev Ivor Morris, Priest-in-charge, The Ascension, Chelmsford; to be Vicar of that benefice (Chelmsford). The Rev Clive Porthouse, Vicar, St Peter w Christ Church and St Matthew, Southborough (Rochester); to be also an Honorary Canon of Rochester Cathedral. The Rev Chris Rankine, Assistant Curate, St Andrew and Church of the Resurrection, Farlington; to be Assistant Curate, St Mary, Alverstoke (Portsmouth). The Rev Canon Martin Shaw, Canon Residentiary of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and Bishop's Adviser in Spiritual-

ity (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to be Canon Precentor of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and continue as Bishop's Adviser in Spirituality, same diocese. The Rev Raymond Taylor, Vicar, St Paul, New Southgate; to be also Area Dean of Central Barnet (London). The Rev David Tomkinson, Chaplain, Bracknell College (Oxford); to be Diocesan Adviser in Social Responsibility (Portsmouth) and Honorary Canon of Portsmouth Cathedral. The Rev Anthony Tucker, Chaplain to Sunon Centre and Priest-in-charge, St Katherine's, Tversal, and working in collaboration with the staff of St Mary Magdalene, Sutton-in-Ashfield; to be Priest-in-charge, Norwell w Oxtington, Causton and Cromwell and

Diocesan Tourism Officer (Southwell). Resignations and retirements. The Venerable Tony Turner, Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight (Portsmouth); to retire April 30. The Rev Roy George, Rector, St Mary the Virgin, Rowner (Portsmouth); to retire February 28. The Rev Canon Derek Goodman, Diocesan Director of Education (Leicester); to retire August 31. The Rev Leslie Morris, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Thomas a Becket, Warlington w St James, Emsworth (Portsmouth); to retire April 8. The Rev Bob Rudd, Chaplain, St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight (Portsmouth); retired January 15.

KING LEOPOLD'S ACCESSION

ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS
From Our Correspondent BRUSSELS, Feb. 25

A solemn Te Deum was sung yesterday at the Church of St. Gudule on the occasion of the accession of King Leopold III.

A few minutes before 11 a.m. a fanfare of trumpets rang out in front of the Royal Palace in Brussels, and the King and Queen emerged. The procession consisted of a military escort and black and gold carriages, each drawn by four horses.

The Rue Royale was again filled with enthusiastic crowds, as the procession passed along it in bright sunshine to the church. As the King and Queen entered, bagpipes were sounded and the troops presented arms. Cardinal van Roy, the Archbishop of Malines, who received the King and Queen, greeted them in his address in the name of the episcopate and the millions of the faithful.

After referring to the great reign of Albert I, he prayed for the Blessing of the Almighty on the King and Queen, the Royal Family, and the nation. The King, in his speech of thanks, said: "The great Cardinal Mercier [the late Archbishop of Malines] for whom my father

ON THIS DAY

February 26, 1934

Leopold III, King of the Belgians, died in 1983. His actions as Commander-in-Chief of the Belgian Army during the German invasion of his country in 1940 aroused hostility to his rule, which led to his abdication after the Second World War.

had a great attachment, said from the pulpit of this church, "The religion of Christ makes patriotism a law. There can be no perfect Christian who is not a perfect patriot." That truth gives a special value to the words which Your Eminence has just pronounced. The cruel trials through which we are passing find consolation in the thought of what is beyond."

The King and Queen took their places on the throne and the Te Deum was sung by the 275 singers from Malines.

The Journal Officiel published this morning pardons for prisoners serving sentences not exceeding 120 days.

RABBITS NOT WANTED AT TRISTAN DA CUNHA

From Our Own Correspondent CAPE TOWN, Feb. 25
The Royal Mail liner *Admiral* arrived here yesterday, having called on her way from South America at Tristan da Cunha.

When he landed there the Rev. Harold Wilde, who is to be chaplain to the island for the next three years, had with him four rabbits, thinking they might breed on the island and give the islanders a constant supply of fresh meat. The islanders, however, politely refused to have rabbits, as they are already overrun with rats and cats, and the islanders are afraid of adding a third pest.



diver category: unclassifiable. The star here must be either a carpenter's model of a double-revolution spiral staircase in walnut, fruitwood and mahogany (France, c. 1900), or else a 18th-century life-sized papier-mâché horse ridden by a painted mannequin of 1820. Charles de Longlade is showing these—and his reluctance to put a price on them might or might not betray a corresponding reluctance to bid them adieu.

Example Parcel: Biersbach 1798 - Self-illuminated blue porcelain plate from around 1800
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 d'Autriche de 1640 à 1840"


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... the Olympia Fine Art and Antiques Fair. Joseph Connolly reports

the great and the good

Each one of the three annual Fine Art and Antiques Fairs at Olympia is now renowned not only for the range and quality of items on offer, but also for the sheer excitement and unpredictability of its attendant non-selling exhibition.

This has taken many forms over the years, and every tantalisingly brief exhibition has always surprised by showing either recent discoveries or else rarities seldom seen. This February, however, the fair has surpassed itself, with a major exhibition of two great artists: Henry Moore and Francis Bacon. Here we have not only 50 works drawn from largely private and little-known collections, but also the emergence of the earliest Bacon self-portrait in existence, painted in 1930 and long since presumed destroyed. (Bacon spent a good deal of time during his later and wildly successful years tracking down and burning his early work.)

Not only was the portrait unknown to Bacon scholars, but so too was any literature relating to the only time the picture was exhibited in 1930, when Bacon was 21. The



Lullaby: Sleeping Head. Lithograph by Henry Moore

catalogue (designed by Bacon himself, too, has now been unearthed, and will be on show at Olympia. The portrait was "out of the country" until a few months ago when, by way of word of mouth, it was offered on loan by "a friend of Bacon" to Angus Stewart, curator of the Olympia exhibition. "It was a tense six weeks while we waited for the paint-

ing to be brought back to England," he says. "The painting hadn't been photographed. We had no idea what to expect."

When eventually the portrait arrived — a modestly sized canvas board, 15in x 11in, Stewart was enraptured. "It was spellbinding at first sight," he says. "Full of youth and vitality, it is provoc-

ative and magnetic... it is in some ways a painting of its period and yet there is no other like it. Bacon dissected and remade his face in a style that is unbelievable and at the same time totally convincing."

It certainly is a remarkably strong and accomplished work for so young (and untrained) a painter. Although the influence of cubism is evident, uniquely Baconian distortions are struggling to break free. There are seven other Bacons on view, ranging from a gouache, pastel and pen and ink on paper from 1933 entitled *Composition (Figures)*, to an oil on canvas of 1989 — *Study of Portrait of John Edwards*. The 1950s, 60s and 70s are also represented by various oils.

Hanging alongside Bacon's work will be portraits of the great man by other hands: two by Michael Leventis, one by Barry Jowle and a drawing by Jean Sheppard who, along with Roy de Maistre, was a fellow contributor to the 1930 exhibition. There also is a 1933 oil by de Maistre depicting Bacon's studio.

Although the "new" Bacon will undoubtedly steal the show, the lion's share of the exhibits belongs to Henry

Moore. Included here are 19 sculptures, ranging from the earliest (1928), up to shortly before his death in 1986. The major and most arresting bronze is *Falling Warrior* (1956/57), on loan from the Huddersfield Art Gallery, though there are many extraordinary fine small maquettes — family groups, animals, heads, torsos and mother and child studies — drawn largely from private collections.

Backing up the sculptures is a wide range of works on paper: chalk-drawn nudes, pencil drawings, and examples of his wartime figures in air-raid shelters, executed in pen and ink with a chalk wash. Particularly sensitive and memorable is a lithograph from 1974 (one of an edition of 25) entitled *Lullaby: Sleeping Head*.

Given the rarity and quality of the works on show, this exhibition at Olympia is set to be the hottest ticket in town.

● The Fine Art and Antiques Fair is at the National Hall Olympia, Hammersmith Road, London W14 0JT-24 22H. Opening times: Feb 27-29 11am-5pm; March 1 11am-5pm; Sat 2 11am-5pm; Sun 3 11am-5pm. Admission £5, catalogue £5.



The earliest Francis Bacon self-portrait in existence, painted in 1930, has only recently come to light. Long thought destroyed, its discovery caused a stir in the art world

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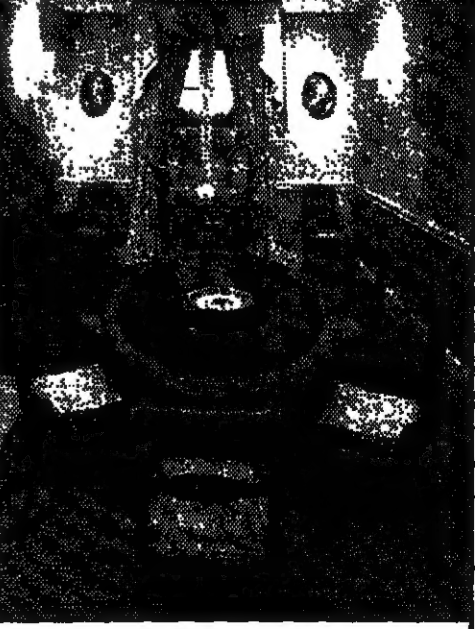
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NEWS

Ministers ready to admit mistakes

Measures aimed at restoring public confidence in the standards of government will be outlined by ministers today as they admit to mistakes in the arms-to-Iraq affair and try to head off an embarrassing defeat on the Scott report.

With the Government's fate in the hands of Northern Ireland's Unionist politicians in tonight's Commons vote, ministers are planning proposals intended to show that they take seriously Sir Richard Scott's criticism. Page 1

Suicide bombers kill 25 in Israel

Islamic extremist suicide bombers launched two attacks on Israel, killing 25 people and wounding 77 in the country's bloodiest day for 20 years. The first, in Jerusalem, ripped a packed commuter bus apart. The second devastated a bus stop used by soldiers in Ashkelon. Pages 1, 9

Labour's harder line

Labour is to drop its 15-year opposition to the Prevention of Terrorism Act in a move to kill any suggestion that it would be softer on the IRA. Page 1

IRA hit-list

A hit-list of RAF stations was found in the hideout of the Aldwych bus bomber, police sources said as Scotland Yard warned that the IRA could strike without warning. Page 2

Death pact

The three young Britons who killed themselves in a suicide pact in America habitually wore black in an apparent homage to their dead hero, a pop singer. Page 3

Austen's music

A treasure trove of musical scores by Jane Austen's favourite composers and songwriters, many painstakingly written in her own hand, has been found at the author's family home. Page 3

Albany rent rise

The historic character of Albany, the Piccadilly block of flats that has traditionally been a haven for men of letters, is threatened by 40 per cent rent rises that could force some residents to move. Page 4

Cancer precaution

Two women at high risk of developing breast cancer decided to have their healthy breasts removed before there was any sign of the disease. Page 5

Atherton caught out; embarrassed

It is safe to assume that Michael Atherton had not heard of the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists. But after one of their number asked him a series of long-winded questions — following England's cricket World Cup defeat in Rawalpindi — the England captain may soon be apologising. He had been heard to mutter: "Somebody remove this buffoon". Page 1

Farmer looks left

Sir Simon Gourlay, a past president of the National Farmers Union has stunned the farming community by announcing that he will be voting Labour at the next general election. Page 6

Mother meets killer

A woman has shaken hands with her daughter's murderer in jail after campaigning for years to be allowed to meet him. Page 7

Mormons catching up

The Mormon Church in Britain is beginning to catch up with the mainstream Christian Churches in membership. Page 8

Germany falls behind

Germany will fail to meet the entry criteria for European monetary union next year, according to calculations circulating in the finance committee of the German parliament. Page 10

Aircraft inquiry

Washington was trying to determine if two Cessnas flown by four anti-Castro exiles had deliberately ventured into Cuba's air space before they were shot down by two Cuban MiGs. Page 11

Buchanan campaign

During a drive to win Arizona's primary tomorrow on a message of protectionism, Pat Buchanan has rarely missed a chance to name as the root of all evil the shipment of cocaine and illegal aliens to America. Page 11



Thousands of Dubliners demonstrating in O'Connell Street for a new ceasefire. There were similar events in Cork and Belfast. Page 2

BUSINESS

Price Waterhouse, the City accountants, has secretly launched a High Court action against the Abu Dhabi authorities. This enjoins them in a \$3 billion claim the firm is fighting in connection with the collapse of BCCI. Page 44

Takeover protection: New rules are to be laid before Parliament to protect building societies from hostile bids. Page 44

Pensions: The CBI warns that the costs associated with planned changes to pension law could amount to £500 million. Page 44

Levi Strauss is to embark on a \$4.6 billion leveraged buyout that will value the company at \$14 billion and turn the controlling Haas family into some of America's richest individuals. Page 44

Pretty as a picture: Ever since the early days of cinema, Hollywood and haute couture have enjoyed a symbiotic relationship. Now the National Film Theatre is celebrating the links between film and fashion. Page 13

Good start: Tori Amos launches her British tour in Ipswich with a gig that provides some chilling moments. Page 13

Maddening ballet: David Bintley's new dance adaptation of Thomas Hardy's novel, *Far from the Madding Crowd*, is being unveiled in Birmingham. Page 12

Few words: Ivan Heng's short solo performance piece offers a modern version of the 15th-century, 30-volume Chinese novel, *A Record of the Journey to the West*. Page 12

Life without Christopher: Julian Clary on the death of his lover from Aids — and why his stage persona has become a drag. Page 15

Flickers of interest: Giles Coren has had enough of the female fashion for head tossing. Page 15

Miracle in a moulse: Anjana Ahuja reports on the attempt to copy a chemical found in barnacles that could cure cancer. Page 14

Health prints: Nigel Hawkes on the link between fingerprints and developing disease. Page 14

Olympia showtime: Dealers in London for a fair. Pages 20, 21

Football: Leeds United reached their first Wembley final for 23 years as goals by Phil Masinga and Tony Yeboah, set them on the road to a Coca-Cola Cup win over Birmingham City. Manchester United beat Bolton Wanderers 6-0 to maintain their Premiership challenge. Pages 23, 26, 27, 29

Cricket: Despite another depressing defeat by South Africa, there are signs of improvement in some aspects of England's play in the World Cup. Page 25

Athletics: Du'aine Ladejo is to be spoken to by Verona Elder, the Great Britain team manager, after unacceptable antics on the last lap of a relay in Glasgow. Page 32

Rugby union: Jack Rowell, the England manager, coach and rugby enigma, is determined to finish the task that he believes he has only just begun. Pages 30 and 31

Skiing: Alberto Tomba, of Italy, collected his second victory of the Alpine skiing championships in Sierra Nevada, Spain, when he secured the gold medal in the slalom event. Page 24

Netball: Norman Williamson is waiting to see if his appeal against having mandatory surgery for a shoulder is successful so that he can ride Alderbrook in the Champion Hurdle. Page 34

2, 5, 7, 24, 35, 44, Bonus: 30

Preview: Deborah Cadbury updates her prize-winning film of 1993 with new evidence of declining fertility in the male species. *Assault on the Male* (BBC, 8 pm) Review: *The Sculptress*, an exercise in gothic hokum, says Lynne Truss. Page 43

Scott vote

Tonight is a time for defending parliamentary sovereignty and good governance. Page 17

Bomb law

The bombings have made it harder for Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat to reach out to the other; but they have increased the dependence of both on the survival of the peace process. Page 17

The joke is in the post

Young cartoonists chosen in memory of Calman, can calculate that if they capture the spirit of the age, they too can one day get their work on a postage stamp. Page 17

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The report of the Scott inquiry is an admirably thorough, lucid and fair-minded document. The debate so far has been inadequate, confused and partisan, and today's debates in Parliament are unlikely to be any better. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

Mr Blair is trying to retain the support of Labour's core working class supporters while abandoning Labour's old class-based approach, to become a broader centre-left party. Page 16

Niall MacDermot, former Labour MP; Mike Woollie, television producer; Henry Lewis, conductor; Brian Hogas, Professor of Common Law, Leeds. Page 18

Attorney-General defends his position on arms trial: Dearing inquiry: threat to distribution of small publications; juries. Page 18

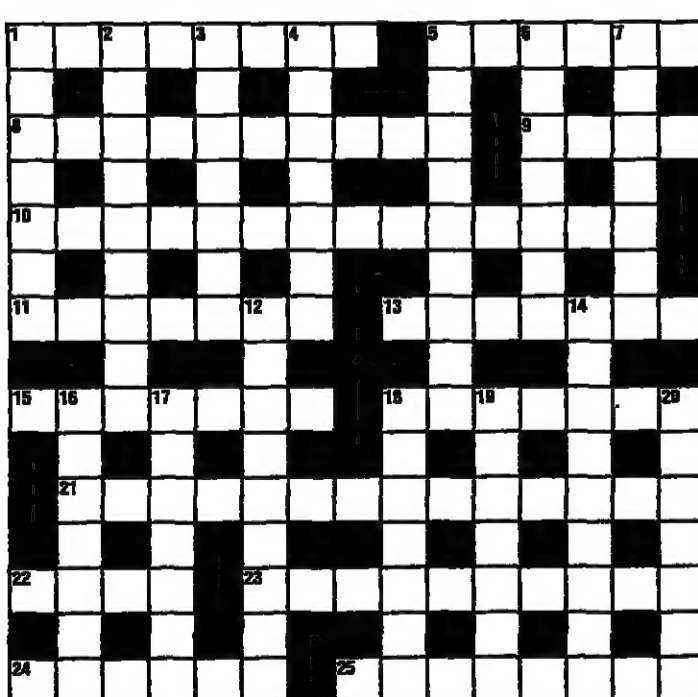
The British parliament opens a debate on the inquiry into arms sales to Iraq: For democracy to function, policies must be exposed to open debate. That cannot occur when high officials shielded. Having done so, the two men should now depart. — The New York Times

THE TIMES
ITF
INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

IN THE TIMES
PLAY TO WIN
Check on your players' performance to win at Interactive Team Football
PLUS
Times columnist
Libby Purves and
Anatole Kaletsky
commentator of the year



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,100



- ACROSS**
- Undeveloped island Antarctic hero almost identified (8).
 - Capital vessel appearing after a short time (6).
 - Act silently to secure unfinished religious work's postponement (10).
 - Tip for getting reduced fares (4).
 - Crashed in banker's car — so think hard! (4,4,6).
 - Give support to this sort of passenger (5-2).
 - Recruits in French tournament action (7).
 - Spotted sun getting kissed (7).
 - College visit produces cry of disapproval (7).
 - Reacting speedily, like adroit lottery officials (5,2,3,4).
 - Southern chief's epic story (4).
 - A heartless lie, trouble for devotee (10).
 - Row of houses — in brief, it accommodates famous old actor (6).
 - Musical instrument left concert-hall after me (8).
- DOWN**
- Shuts up drink in house, being upwardly mobile (7).
 - Runs into one crack needing repair in rail (9).
 - Out-and-out antique fetched better price (7).
 - Restyle, introducing modifications in brief fashion (7).
 - State attorney defending doctor published notes (9).
 - African passing up fruit — I left one, too (7).
 - Prepare too much type for piece of text in scripture (7).
 - Meal quickly follows piece of good luck (9).
 - It may be well protected in multi-storey buildings (9).
 - Provoking interest in the capacity of a beer taken outside (7).
 - Invention from commander at an advanced stage (7).
 - Protective cover for attractive girl outside class (7).
 - Lot more shaky, this, for musicians? (7).
 - Information from base (3-4).

For regional forecast, dial 0801 600 followed by code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
West Surrey Sussex	702
Devon & Cornwall	703
Wales, Shropshire & So.	704
North Wales, Cheshire	705
North Wales, Lancashire	706
West Midlands & So. Wales	707
West Midlands & So. Wales	708
West Midlands & So. Wales	709
West Midlands & So. Wales	710
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West Midlands & So. Wales	747
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West Midlands & So. Wales	749
West Midlands & So. Wales	750

AA ROADWATCH

For AA traffic forecasts, dial 0300 401 followed by code.

Region	Code
London & SE, roads	731
East of London, roads	732
West of London, roads	733
North of London, roads	734
South of London, roads	735
West of London, roads	736
North of London, roads	737
South of London, roads	738
West of London, roads	739
North of London, roads	740
South of London, roads	741
West of London, roads	742
North of London, roads	743
South of London, roads	744
West of London, roads	745
North of London, roads	746
South of London, roads	747
West of London, roads	748
North of London, roads	749
South of London, roads	750

HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

Room	Time
Chamber	10.30 am
Committee Room	11.00 am
Debate	11.30 am
Question Time	12.00 pm
Business	12.30 pm
Debate	1.00 pm
Committee Room	1.30 pm
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